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(54) Title: NOVEL PYRAZOLE ANALOGS ACTING ON CANNABINOID RECEPTORS

(57) Abstract: One aspect of the invention is concerned with cannabimimetic pyrazole analogs. Another aspect of the invention is concerned with new and improved pyrazole analogs having high affinities and/or selectivities for the GB 1 cannabinoid receptor. A further aspect of the invention is concerned with pharmaceutical preparations employing the inventive analogs and methods of administering therapeutically effective amounts of the inventive analogs to provide a physiological effect.

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## NOVEL PYRAZOLE ANALOGS ACTING ON CANNABINOID RECEPTORS

### Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to biologically active pyrazole analogs  
5 capable of interacting with the CB1 and/or the CB2 cannabinoid receptors. One  
aspect of the invention is concerned with new and improved pyrazole analogs acting  
as antagonists for the CB1 and/or the CB2 receptors. Another aspect of the  
invention is concerned with new and improved pyrazole analogs having selectivity  
10 for the CB1 or CB2 cannabinoid receptor. Still other aspects of the invention are  
concerned with pharmaceutical preparations employing the inventive analogs and  
methods of administering therapeutically effective amounts of the inventive analogs  
to provide a physiological effect.

### Background of the Invention

15 The classical cannabinoid  $\Delta^9$ -Tetrahydrocannabinol ( $\Delta^9$ -THC) is the major  
active constituent extracted from *Cannabis sativa*. The effects of such cannabinoids  
are due to an interaction with specific high-affinity receptors. Presently, two  
cannabinoid receptors have been characterized: CB1, a central receptor found in the  
mammalian brain and a number of other sites in peripheral tissues; and CB2, a  
20 peripheral receptor found principally in cells related to the immune system. The CB1  
receptor is believed to mediate the psychoactive properties associated with classical  
cannabinoids. Characterization of these receptors has been made possible by the  
development of specific synthetic ligands such as the agonists WIN 55212-2 and CP  
55,940.

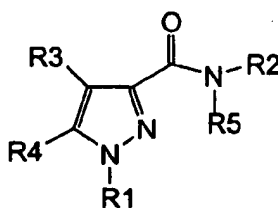
25 In addition to acting at the cannabinoid receptors, cannabinoids such as  $\Delta^9$ -  
THC also affect cellular membranes, thereby producing undesirable side effects such  
as drowsiness, impairment of monoamine oxidase function and impairment of non-  
receptor mediated brain function. The addictive and psychotropic properties of some  
cannabinoids also limit their therapeutic value.

30 U.S. Patent No. 6,028,084 describes some pyrazole derivatives alleged to  
have binding affinity for the central cannabinoid receptor. International Publication  
Number WO 01/29007A1 also describes some pyrazole derivatives having binding  
affinity for cannabinoid receptors.

The pharmacological effects of cannabinoids pertain to a variety of areas such as the central nervous system, the cardiovascular system, the immune system and/or endocrine system. Compounds possessing an affinity for the CB1 and/or the CB2 cannabinoid receptors are useful as agents: acting on the central nervous system and in a variety of other roles.

### Summary of the Invention

Briefly stated, one aspect of the invention is concerned with new and improved cannabimimetic (cannabinoid like) pyrazole analogs. The inventive cannabimimetic pyrazole ligands of this aspect can be represented by general formula I:



R1 comprises  $-(CH_2)_n-Z$ .

n is an integer from 0 to about 7.

Z comprises H, halogen, N<sub>3</sub>, NCS, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, OX<sub>3</sub>, OAc, O-acyl, O-aryl, O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>OH, O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, NH-acyl, NH-aryl, CHO, CF<sub>3</sub>, COOX<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub>H, SO<sub>2</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, CONX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino.

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members.

X<sub>3</sub> comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl-NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>.

n is an integer from 0 to about 6.

In a variation of the invention, R1 comprises  $-(CH_2)_n-Z$ .

n is an integer from 0 to about 7.

Z comprises a carbocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, an aromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a tricyclic ring, a heterotricyclic ring, a polycyclic ring, a heteropolycyclic ring; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring atom by an alkyl group; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the  $-(CH_2)_n-$  group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom.

In a variation of the invention, R1 comprises  $-(CH_2)_n-Z$ .

n is an integer from 0 to about 7.

Z comprises a 5 member unsaturated ring having 0 to 2 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members, a substituted 5 member unsaturated ring having 0 to 2 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members, a 6 member aromatic ring having 0 to 3 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members or a substituted 6 member aromatic ring having 0 to 3 independently selected heteroatoms; and wherein the connecting point between the  $-(CH_2)_n-$  group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom.

In a variation of the invention, R1 comprises  $-(CH_2)_n-Z$ .

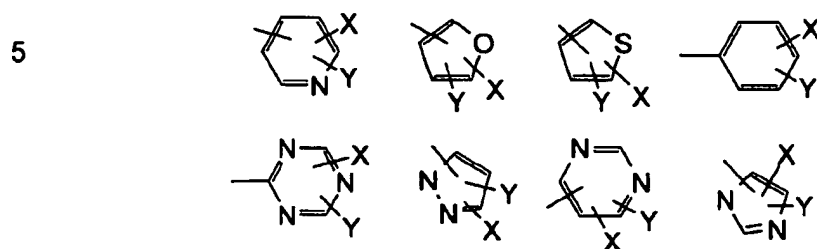
n is an integer from 0 to about 7.

Z comprises 1-, 2- or 3-pyrrolidinyl, 1-, 2-, 3- or 4-piperidinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-morpholinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-thiomorpholinyl, 1-, 2- or 3-azetidiny, 1- or 2-piperazinyl, 2- or 3-tetrahydrofuranyl; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring atom by an alkyl group; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the  $-(CH_2)_n-$  group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom.

In a variation of the invention, R1 comprises  $-(CH_2)_n-Z$ .

n is an integer from 0 to about 7.

Z comprises



10 wherein X and Y each independently comprise H, halogen, N<sub>3</sub>, NCS, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, OX<sub>3</sub>, OAc, O-acyl, O-aryl, NH-acyl, NH-aryl, CHO, CF<sub>3</sub>, COOX<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub>H, SO<sub>2</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, CONX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, or methylene dioxy when Z comprises a structure having two adjacent carbon atoms.

15 X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

20 X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members.

X<sub>3</sub> comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl-NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>.

In a variation of the invention, R1 comprises a carbocyclic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heterocyclic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, a carbocyclic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heteroaromatic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, a heterocyclic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heterocyclic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, an heterocyclic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heteroaromatic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, an aromatic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heterocyclic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, an aromatic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heteroaromatic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, a heteroaromatic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heterocyclic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms or a heteroaromatic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heteroaromatic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms.

R2 comprises a carbocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 members, a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 members, an aromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 members, a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a tricyclic ring, a heterotricyclic ring, a polycyclic ring or a heteropolycyclic ring.

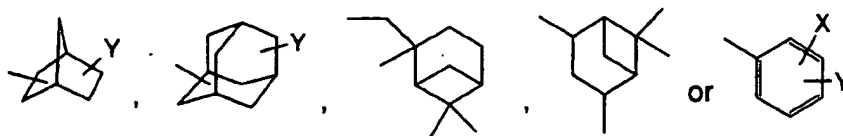
10 In a variation of the invention, R2 comprises 

wherein G comprises CH or N, and L and J each independently comprise (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>, O, NH or S. n is an integer from 0 to about 7.

15 In a variation of the invention, R2 comprises 

wherein G, L and J each independently comprise CH or N.

20 In a variation of the invention, R2 comprises



25 wherein X and Y each independently comprise H, halogen, N<sub>3</sub>, NCS, Ph, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, OX<sub>3</sub>, OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl, NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, CHO, CF<sub>3</sub>, COOX<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub>H, SO<sub>2</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, CONX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, alkyl, alcohol, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or dialkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, or alkylsulfonyl.

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

30 X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members).

$X_3$  comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl- $NX_1X_2$ .

- 5 In a variation of the invention,  $R_2$  comprises a carbocyclic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heterocyclic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, a carbocyclic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heteroaromatic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, a heterocyclic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heterocyclic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, an heterocyclic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heteroaromatic ring  
 10 having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, an aromatic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heterocyclic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, an aromatic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heteroaromatic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, a heteroaromatic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heterocyclic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms or a heteroaromatic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heteroaromatic ring having from  
 15 5 to 7 ring atoms.

$R_3$  comprises H, halogen,  $N_3$ , NCS, Ph, CN,  $NO_2$ ,  $NX_1X_2$ ,  $OX_3$ , OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl,  $O(CH_2)_nOH$ ,  $O(CH_2)_nNX_1X_2$ , NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, CHO,  $CF_3$ ,  $COOX_3$ ,  $SO_3H$ ,  $SO_2NX_1X_2$ ,  $CONX_1X_2$ , alkyl, alcohol, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-  
 20 alkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, or alkylsulfonyl.

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

- 25  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members).

$X_3$  comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl- $NX_1X_2$ .

$n$  is an integer from 0 to about 6.

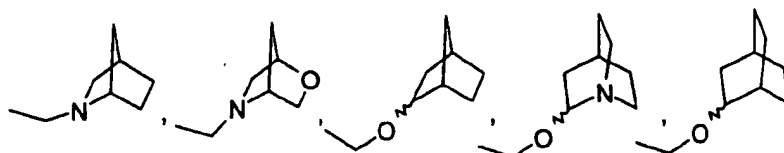
- 30 In a variation of the invention,  $R_3$  comprises a carbocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, an aromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, a bicyclic ring, a



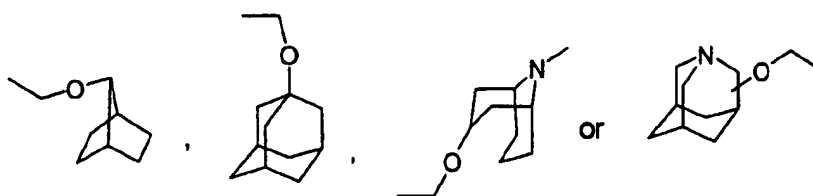
heterobicyclic ring, a tricyclic ring, a heterotricyclic ring, a polycyclic ring or a heteropolycyclic ring.

In an advantageous variation of the invention, R3 comprises

5



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In a variation of the invention, R3 comprises  $-\text{CH}_2-\text{Z}$ .

Z comprises H, halogen,  $\text{N}_3$ , NCS, Ph, CN,  $\text{NO}_2$ ,  $\text{NX}_1\text{X}_2$ ,  $\text{OX}_3$ , OAc, O-acyl, O-aro-  
 yl,  $\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{OH}$ ,  $\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{NX}_1\text{X}_2$ , NH-acyl, NH-aro-yl, CHO,  $\text{CF}_3$ ,  $\text{COOX}_3$ ,  $\text{SO}_3\text{H}$ ,  
 $\text{SO}_2\text{NX}_1\text{X}_2$ ,  $\text{CONX}_1\text{X}_2$ , alkyl, alcohol, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-  
 alkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, or alkylsulfonyl.

20

$\text{X}_1$  and  $\text{X}_2$  each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

$\text{X}_1$  and  $\text{X}_2$  together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4  
 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected  
 from O, N or S, or

$\text{X}_1$  and  $\text{X}_2$  together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to  
 about 6 members).

25

$\text{X}_3$  comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl- $\text{NX}_1\text{X}_2$ .

n is an integer from 0 to about 6.

In a variation of the invention, R3 comprises  $-\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$  or  $-\text{CH}_2\text{Oalkyl}$ .

30

In a variation of the invention, R3 comprises  $-\text{CH}_2-\text{Z}$ .

Z comprises a carbocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, a  
 heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, an aromatic ring having

about 5 to about 7 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a tricyclic ring or a heterotricyclic ring; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring atom by an alkyl group; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom  
 5 by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the  $-(CH_2)_n-$  group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom.

10 In a variation of the invention, R3 comprises  $-CH_2-Z$ .

Z comprises 1-, 2- or 3-pyrrolidinyl, 1-, 2-, 3- or 4-piperidinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-morpholinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-thiomorpholinyl, 1-, 2- or 3-azetidiny, 1- or 2-piperazinyl, 2- or 3-tetrahydrofuranyl; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group,  
 15 a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the  $-(CH_2)_n-$  group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom.

In a variation of the invention R3 comprises  $-CH_2-Q-(CH_2)_n-Z$ .

20 Q comprises N, O, S,  $CH_3$ ,  $SO_2$  or  $OSO_2$ .

n is an integer from 0 to about 7.

Z comprises H, halogen,  $N_3$ , NCS, Ph, CN,  $NO_2$ ,  $NX_1X_2$ ,  $OX_3$ , OAc, O-acyl, O-aro-  
 25 yl, NH-acyl, NH-aro-yl,  $O(CH_2)_nOH$ ,  $O(CH_2)_nNX_1X_2$ , CHO,  $CF_3$ ,  $COOX_3$ ,  $SO_3H$ ,  $SO_2NX_1X_2$ ,  $CONX_1X_2$ , alkyl, alcohol, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, or alkylsulfonyl.

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

30  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members.

$X_3$  comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl- $NX_1X_2$ .

n is an integer from 0 to about 6.

In a variation of the invention R3 comprises  $-\text{CH}_2-\text{Q}-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{Z}$ .

Q comprises N, O, S,  $\text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{SO}_2$  or  $\text{OSO}_2$ .

n is an integer from 0 to about 7.

- 5 Z comprises a carbocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, an aromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring atom by an alkyl group; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the  $-(\text{CH}_2)_n-$  group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom.
- 10

- 15 In a variation of the invention R3 comprises  $-\text{CH}_2-\text{Q}-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{Z}$ .

Q comprises N, O, S,  $\text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{SO}_2$  or  $\text{OSO}_2$ .

n is an integer from 0 to about 7.

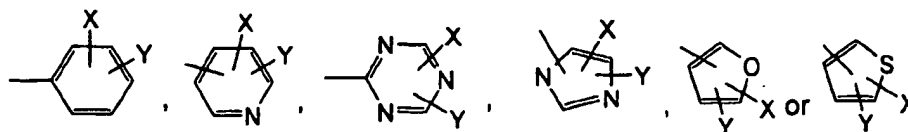
- Z comprises 1-, 2- or 3-pyrrolidinyl, 1-, 2-, 3- or 4-piperidinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-morpholinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-thiomorpholinyl, 1-, 2- or 3-azetidiny, 1- or 2-piperazinyl, 2- or 3-tetrahydrofuranyl; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring atom by an alkyl group; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the  $-(\text{CH}_2)_n-$  group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom.
- 20
- 25

In a variation of the invention, R3 comprises  $-\text{CH}_2-\text{Q}-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{Z}$ .

Q comprises N, O, S,  $\text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{SO}_2$  or  $\text{OSO}_2$ .

n is an integer from 0 to about 7.

- 30 Z comprises



wherein X and Y each independently comprise H, halogen, N<sub>3</sub>, NCS, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, OX<sub>3</sub>, OAc, O-acyl, O-aryl, NH-acyl, NH-aryl, CHO, CF<sub>3</sub>, alcohol, COOX<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub>H, SO<sub>2</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, CONX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, or methylene dioxy when Z comprises a structure having two adjacent carbon atoms.

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members.

X<sub>3</sub> comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl-NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>.

15 R<sub>4</sub> comprises -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-Z.

n comprises an integer from 0 to about 7.

Z comprises H, halogen, N<sub>3</sub>, NCS, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, OX<sub>3</sub>, OAc, O-acyl, O-aryl, NH-acyl, NH-aryl, O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>OH, O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, CHO, CF<sub>3</sub>, COOX<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub>H, SO<sub>2</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, CONX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino alkylsulfinyl, or alkylsulfonyl.

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

25 X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members.

X<sub>3</sub> comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl-NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>.

n is an integer from 0 to about 6.

30 In a variation of the invention, R<sub>4</sub> comprises -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-Z.

n comprises an integer from 0 to about 7.

Z comprises a carbocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, an aromatic ring having

about 5 to about 7 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a polycyclic ring, a heteropolycyclic ring; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring atom by a lower-alkyl group; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the  $-(CH_2)_n$  group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom.

10

In a variation of the invention, R4 comprises  $-(CH_2)_n-Z$ .

n comprises an integer from 0 to about 7.

Z comprises 1-, 2- or 3-pyrrolidinyl, 1-, 2-, 3- or 4-piperidinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-morpholinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-thiomorpholinyl, 1-, 2- or 3-azetidiny, 1- or 2-piperazinyl, 2- or 3-tetrahydrofuranyl; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring atom by a lower-alkyl group; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the  $-(CH_2)_n$  group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom.

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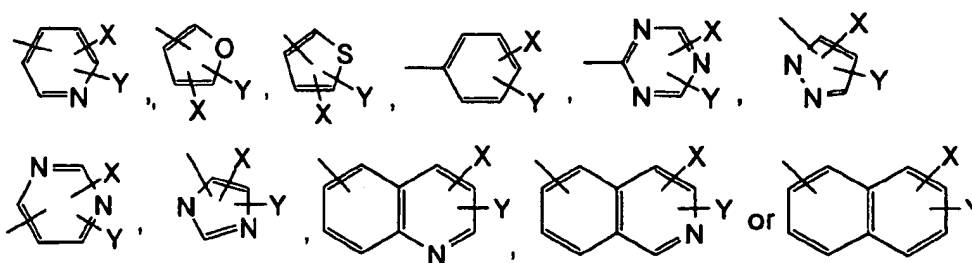
In an advantageous variation of the invention, R4 comprises  $-(CH_2)_n-Z$ .

n comprises an integer from 0 to about 7.

25

Z comprises

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wherein X and Y each independently comprise H, halogen,  $N_3$ , NCS, CN,  $NO_2$ ,  $NX_1X_2$ ,  $OX_3$ , OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl, NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, alcohol, CHO,  $CF_3$ ,

COOX<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub>H, SO<sub>2</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, CONX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, or methylene dioxy when Z comprises a structure having two adjacent carbon atoms.

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

5 X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members.

10 X<sub>3</sub> comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl-NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>,

In a variation of the invention, R<sub>4</sub> comprises  $-(CH_2)_n-Z$ .

n comprises an integer from 0 to about 7.

Z comprises an unsaturated ring having 5 ring atoms and 0 to 2 independently  
15 selected heteroatoms as ring members fused to an unsaturated ring having 5 ring atoms and 0 to 2 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members, an unsaturated ring having 5 ring atoms and 0 to 2 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members fused to an unsaturated ring having 6 or 7 ring atoms and 0 to 3 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members or an unsaturated ring having  
20 6 ring atoms and 0 to 3 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members fused to an unsaturated ring having 6 or 7 ring atoms and 0 to 3 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members.

In a variation of the invention, R<sub>4</sub> comprises  $-CH_2-Q-(CH_2)_n-Z$ .

25 Q comprises N, O, S, CH<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> or OSO<sub>2</sub>.

n is an integer from 0 to about 7.

Z comprises H, halogen, N<sub>3</sub>, NCS, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, OX<sub>3</sub>, OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl, O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>OH, O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, CHO, CF<sub>3</sub>, COOX<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub>H, SO<sub>2</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, CONX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino.

30 X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members.

X<sub>3</sub> comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl-NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>.

n is an integer from 0 to about 6.

5

In a variation of the invention, R<sub>4</sub> comprises -CH<sub>2</sub>-Q-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-Z.

Q comprises N, O, S, CH<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> or OSO<sub>2</sub>.

n is an integer from 0 to about 7.

Z comprises a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a tricyclic ring, a heterotricyclic ring, a polycyclic ring or a heteropolycyclic ring.

10

In a variation of the invention, R<sub>4</sub> comprises -CH<sub>2</sub>-Q-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-Z.

Q comprises N, O, S, CH<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> or OSO<sub>2</sub>.

n is an integer from 0 to about 7.

15

Z comprises a carbocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, an aromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring atom by a lower-alkyl group; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>- group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom.

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In a variation of the invention, R<sub>4</sub> comprises -CH<sub>2</sub>-Q-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-Z.

Q comprises N, O, S, CH<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> or OSO<sub>2</sub>.

n is an integer from 0 to about 7.

30

Z comprises 1-, 2- or 3-pyrrolidinyl, 1-, 2-, 3- or 4-piperidinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-morpholinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-thiomorpholinyl, 1-, 2- or 3-azetidyl, 1- or 2-piperazinyl, 2- or 3-tetrahydrofuranyl; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring atom by a lower-alkyl group; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted

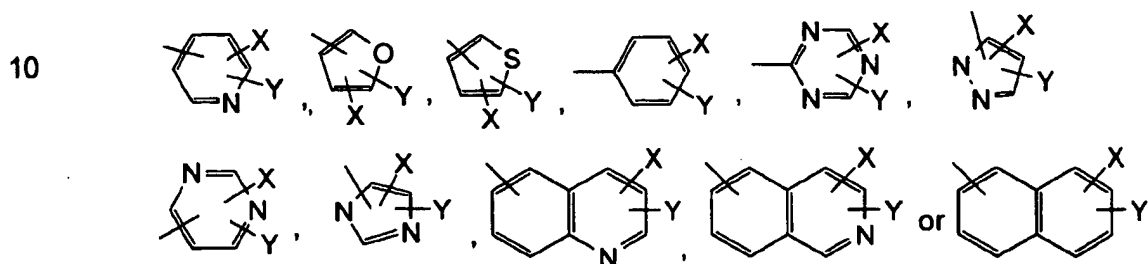
benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the  $-(CH_2)_n-$  group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom.

5 In a variation of the invention R4 comprises  $-CH_2-Q-(CH_2)_n-Z$ .

Q comprises N, O, S,  $CH_3$ ,  $SO_2$  or  $OSO_2$ .

n is an integer from 0 to about 7.

Z comprises



15 wherein X and Y each independently comprise H, halogen,  $N_3$ , NCS, CN,  $NO_2$ ,  $NX_1X_2$ ,  $OX_3$ , OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl, NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, alcohol, CHO,  $CF_3$ , alcohol,  $COOX_3$ ,  $SO_3H$ ,  $SO_2NX_1X_2$ ,  $CONX_1X_2$ , alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, or methylene dioxy when Z comprises a structure having two adjacent carbon atoms.

20

In a variation of the invention, R4 comprises  $-(CH_2)_n-Q-(CH_2)_n-Z$ .

Q comprises N, O, S,  $CH_3$ ,  $SO_2$  or  $OSO_2$ .

n comprises an integer from 0 to about 7.

25 Z comprises an unsaturated ring having 5 ring atoms and 0 to 2 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members fused to an unsaturated ring having 5 ring atoms and 0 to 2 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members, an unsaturated ring having 5 ring atoms and 0 to 2 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members fused to an unsaturated ring having 6 or 7 ring atoms and 0 to 3 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members or an unsaturated ring having 6 ring atoms and 0 to 3 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members fused to an unsaturated ring having 6 or 7 ring atoms and 0 to 3 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members.

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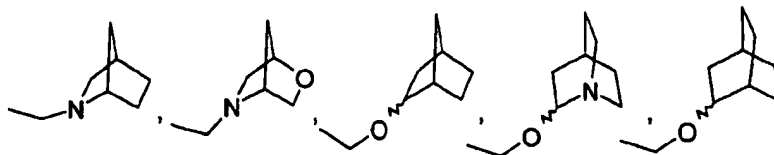
In a variation of the invention, R4 comprises  $-\text{CH}_2-\text{Q}-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{Z}$ .

Q comprises N, O, S, CH<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> or OSO<sub>2</sub>.

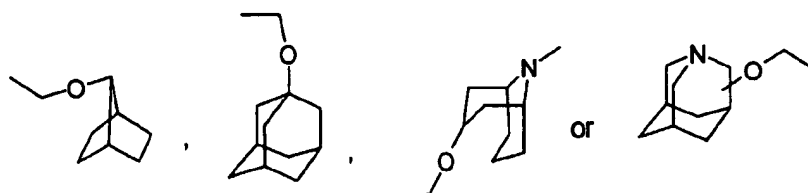
n is an integer from 0 to about 7.

Z comprises

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In a variation of the invention R4 comprises  $-\text{T}-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{Z}$ .

n comprises an integer from 0 to about 7.

T comprises a carbocyclic ring having 3 to about 8 ring members, an unsaturated ring having 3 to about 8 carbon atoms as ring members, a heterocyclic ring having 3 to about 8 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having 5 to about 8 ring members, a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a tricyclic ring, a heterotricyclic ring, a polycyclic ring or a heteropolycyclic ring.

20

Z comprises H, halogen, N<sub>3</sub>, NCS, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, OX<sub>3</sub>, OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl, O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>OH, O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, CHO, CF<sub>3</sub>, COOX<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub>H, SO<sub>2</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, CONX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino alkylsulfinyl, or alkylsulfonyl.

25

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

30

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members.

X<sub>3</sub> comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl-NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>.

n is an integer from 0 to about 6.

In a variation of the invention R4 comprises  $-T-(CH_2)_n-Z$ .

n comprises an integer from 0 to about 7.

T comprises a carbocyclic ring having 3 to about 8 ring members, an  
5 unsaturated ring having 3 to about 8 carbon atoms as ring members, a heterocyclic  
ring having 3 to about 8 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having 5 to about 8 ring  
members, a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a tricyclic ring, a heterotricyclic ring,  
a polycyclic ring or a heteropolycyclic ring.

Z comprises a carbocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, a  
10 heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, an aromatic ring having  
about 5 to about 7 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having about 5 to about 7  
ring members, a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a polycyclic ring, a  
heteropolycyclic ring; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring  
atom by a lower-alkyl group; or any above group substituted on at least one available  
15 ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl  
group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted  
benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the  $-(CH_2)_n$ - group and  
the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen  
atom.

20

In a variation of the invention R4 comprises  $-T-(CH_2)_n-Z$ .

n comprises an integer from 0 to about 7.

T comprises a carbocyclic ring having 3 to about 8 ring members, an  
unsaturated ring having 3 to about 8 carbon atoms as ring members, a heterocyclic  
25 ring having 3 to about 8 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having 5 to about 8 ring  
members, a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a tricyclic ring, a heterotricyclic ring,  
a polycyclic ring or a heteropolycyclic ring.

Z comprises 1-, 2- or 3-pyrrolidinyl, 1-, 2-, 3- or 4-piperidinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-  
morpholinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-thiomorpholinyl, 1-, 2- or 3-azetidyl, 1- or 2-piperazinyl, 2-  
30 or 3-tetrahydrofuranyl; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring  
atom by a lower-alkyl group; or any above group substituted on at least one available  
ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl  
group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted

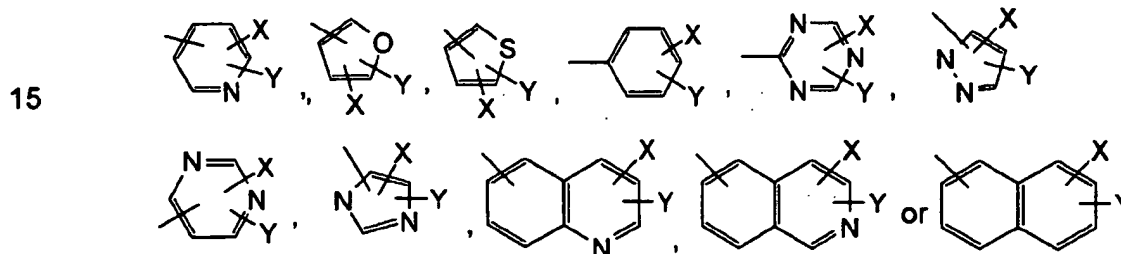
benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the  $-(CH_2)_n-$  group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom.

5 In a variation of the invention R4 comprises  $-T-(CH_2)_n-Z$ .

n comprises an integer from 0 to about 7.

T comprises a carbocyclic ring having 3 to about 8 ring members, an unsaturated ring having 3 to about 8 carbon atoms as ring members, a heterocyclic ring having 3 to about 8 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having 5 to about 8 ring members, a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a tricyclic ring, a heterotricyclic ring, 10 a polycyclic ring or a heteropolycyclic ring.

Z comprises



wherein X and Y each independently comprise H, halogen,  $N_3$ , NCS, CN, 20  $NO_2$ ,  $NX_1X_2$ ,  $OX_3$ , OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl, NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, alcohol, CHO,  $CF_3$ ,  $COOX_3$ ,  $SO_3H$ ,  $SO_2NX_1X_2$ ,  $CONX_1X_2$ , alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, or methylene dioxy when Z comprises a structure having two adjacent carbon atoms.

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

25  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members.

30  $X_3$  comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl- $NX_1X_2$ .

In a variation of the invention R4 comprises  $-\text{T}-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{Z}$ .

n comprises an integer from 0 to about 7.

T comprises a carbocyclic ring having 3 to about 8 ring members, an unsaturated ring having 3 to about 8 carbon atoms as ring members, a heterocyclic ring having 3 to about 8 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having 5 to about 8 ring members, a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a tricyclic ring, a heterotricyclic ring, a polycyclic ring or a heteropolycyclic ring.

Z comprises an unsaturated ring having 5 ring atoms and 0 to 2 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members fused to an unsaturated ring having 5 ring atoms and 0 to 2 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members, an unsaturated ring having 5 ring atoms and 0 to 2 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members fused to an unsaturated ring having 6 or 7 ring atoms and 0 to 3 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members or an unsaturated ring having 6 ring atoms and 0 to 3 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members fused to an unsaturated ring having 6 or 7 ring atoms and 0 to 3 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members.

In another variation of the invention R4 comprises  $-\text{Ph}-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{Z}$ .

n comprises an integer from 0 to about 7.

Z comprises H, halogen, N<sub>3</sub>, NCS, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, OX<sub>3</sub>, OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl, O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>OH, O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, CHO, CF<sub>3</sub>, COOX<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub>H, SO<sub>2</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, CONX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino.

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members.

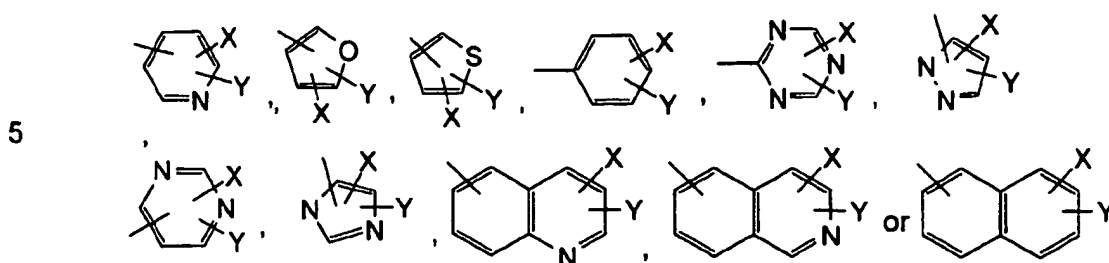
X<sub>3</sub> comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl-NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>.

n is an integer from 0 to about 6.

In a variation of the invention, R4 comprises  $-\text{Ph}-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{Z}$ .

n comprises an integer from 0 to about 7.

Z comprises



wherein X and Y each independently comprise H, halogen, N<sub>3</sub>, NCS, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, OX<sub>3</sub>, OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl, NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, CHO, CF<sub>3</sub>, alcohol, COOX<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub>H, SO<sub>2</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, CONX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, lower-alkylsulfonyl, or methylene dioxo when Z comprises a structure having two adjacent carbon atoms.

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

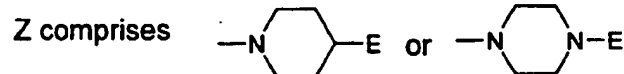
X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members.

X<sub>3</sub> comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl-NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>.

In a variation of the invention R<sub>4</sub> comprises -Ph-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-Z.

n comprises an integer from 0 to about 7.

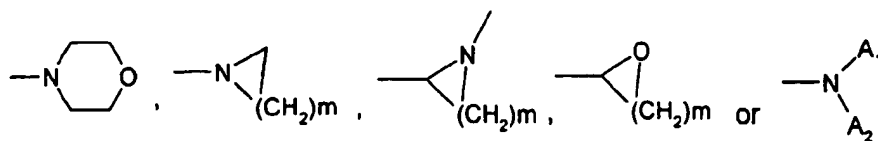


E comprises a C<sub>1</sub> to about C<sub>4</sub>, linear or branched alkyl group, a phenyl group, a substituted phenyl group, a benzyl group or a substituted benzyl group.

In a variation of the invention R<sub>4</sub> comprises -Ph-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-Z.

n comprises an integer from 0 to about 7.

Z comprises



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m is an integer from 1 to about 5.  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  each independently comprise a C1 to about C4 alkyl group, a phenyl group or a substituted phenyl group.

R5 comprises H, alkyl or substituted alkyl.

10

The inventive compounds include any and all isomers and stereoisomers.

In general, the compositions of the invention may be alternately formulated to comprise, consist of, or consist essentially of, any appropriate components herein disclosed. The compositions of the invention may additionally, or  
 15 alternatively, be formulated so as to be devoid, or substantially free, of any components, materials, ingredients, adjuvants or species used in the prior art compositions or that are otherwise not necessary to the achievement of the function and/or objectives of the present invention.

Unless otherwise specifically defined, "acyl" refers to the general formula  
 20  $-C(O)alkyl$ .

Unless otherwise specifically defined, "acyloxy" refers to the general formula  $-O-acyl$ .

Unless otherwise specifically defined, "alcohol" refers to the general formula  $alkyl-OH$  and includes primary, secondary and tertiary variations.

25 Unless otherwise specifically defined, "alkyl" or "lower alkyl" refers to a linear, branched or cyclic alkyl group having from 1 to about 16 carbon atoms including, for example, methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, hexyl, octyl, isopropyl, isobutyl, tert-butyl, cyclopropyl, cyclohexyl, cyclooctyl, vinyl and allyl. The alkyl group can be saturated or unsaturated. The alkyl group can be unsubstituted, singly substituted or, if  
 30 possible, multiply substituted, with substituent groups in any possible position. Unless otherwise specifically limited, a cyclic alkyl group includes monocyclic,

bicyclic, tricyclic, tetracyclic and polycyclic rings, for example norbornyl, adamantyl and related terpenes.

Unless otherwise specifically defined, "alkoxy" refers to the general formula –O–alkyl.

5 Unless otherwise specifically defined, "alkylmercapto" refers to the general formula –S–alkyl.

Unless otherwise specifically defined, "alkylamino" refers to the general formula –(NH)–alkyl.

Unless otherwise specifically defined, "di-alkylamino" refers to the general  
10 formula –N–(alkyl)<sub>2</sub>. Unless otherwise specifically limited di-alkylamino includes cyclic amine compounds such as piperidine and morpholine.

Unless otherwise specifically defined, an aromatic ring is an unsaturated ring structure having about 5 to about 7 ring members and including only carbon as ring atoms. The aromatic ring structure can be unsubstituted, singly substituted or, if  
15 possible, multiply substituted, with substituent groups in any possible position.

Unless otherwise specifically defined, "aryl" refers to an aromatic ring system that includes only carbon as ring atoms, for example phenyl, biphenyl or naphthyl. The aryl group can be unsubstituted, singly substituted or, if possible, multiply substituted, with substituent groups in any possible position.

20 Unless otherwise specifically defined, "aroyl" refers to the general formula –C(=O)–aryl.

Unless otherwise specifically defined, a bicyclic ring structure comprises 2 fused rings that include only carbon as ring atoms. The bicyclic ring structure can be saturated or unsaturated. The bicyclic ring structure can be unsubstituted, singly  
25 substituted or, if possible, multiply substituted, with substituent groups in any possible position. The individual rings may or may not be of the same type. Examples of bicyclic ring structures include naphthalene and bicyclooctane.

Unless otherwise specifically defined, a carbocyclic ring is a non-aromatic ring structure, saturated or unsaturated, having about 3 to about 8 ring members that  
30 includes only carbon as ring atoms, for example, benzene or cyclohexane. The carbocyclic ring can be unsubstituted, singly substituted or, if possible, multiply substituted, with substituent groups in any possible position.

Unless otherwise specifically defined, "halogen" refers to an atom selected from fluorine, chlorine, bromine and iodine.

Unless otherwise specifically defined, a heteroaromatic ring is an unsaturated ring structure having about 5 to about 8 ring members independently selected from carbon atoms and one or more heteroatoms, including oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur, for example, pyridine, furan, quinoline, and their derivatives. The heteroaromatic ring can be unsubstituted, singly substituted or, if possible, multiply substituted, with substituent groups in any possible position.

Unless otherwise specifically defined, a heterobicyclic ring structure comprises 2 fused rings having ring members independently selected from carbon and one or more heteroatoms, including oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur. The heterobicyclic ring structure is typically unsaturated. The heterobicyclic ring can be unsubstituted, singly substituted or, if possible, multiply substituted, with substituent groups in any possible position. The individual rings may or may not be of the same type. Examples of heterobicyclic ring structures include isobenzofuran and indole.

Unless otherwise specifically defined, a heterocyclic ring is a saturated ring structure having about 3 to about 8 ring members independently selected from carbon atoms and one or more heteroatoms, including oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur, for example, piperidine, morpholine, piperazine, pyrrolidine, thiomorpholine, and their derivatives. The heterocyclic ring can be unsubstituted, singly substituted or, if possible, multiply substituted, with substituent groups in any possible position.

Unless otherwise specifically defined, a heterotricyclic ring structure comprises 3 fused rings having ring members independently selected from carbon and one or more heteroatoms, including oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur. The heterotricyclic ring structure is typically unsaturated. The heterotricyclic ring structure can be unsubstituted, singly substituted or, if possible, multiply substituted, with substituent groups in any possible position. The individual rings may or may not be of the same type. Examples of heterotricyclic ring structures include carbazole, phenanthroline and phenazine.

Unless otherwise specifically defined, a heteropolycyclic ring structure comprises more than 3 fused rings having ring members independently selected from carbon and one or more heteroatoms, including oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur. The heteropolycyclic ring structure is typically unsaturated. The heteropolycyclic ring



structure can be unsubstituted, singly substituted or, if possible, multiply substituted, with substituent groups in any possible position. The individual rings may or may not be of the same type. Examples of heteropolycyclic ring structures include azaadamantine, tropane and homotropane.

- 5            Unless otherwise specifically defined, the term "phenacyl" refers to the general formula –phenyl–acyl.

          Unless otherwise specifically defined, a polycyclic ring structure comprises more than 3 fused rings and includes carbon as ring atoms. The polycyclic ring structure can be saturated or unsaturated. The polycyclic ring structure can be  
10    unsubstituted, singly substituted or, if possible, multiply substituted, with substituent groups in any possible position. The individual rings may or may not be of the same type. Examples of polycyclic ring structures include adamantane, bicyclooctane, norbornane and bicyclononanes.

          Unless otherwise specifically defined, a spirocycle refers to a ring system  
15    wherein a single atom is the only common member of two rings. A spirocycle can comprise a saturated carbocyclic ring comprising about 3 to about 8 ring members, a heterocyclic ring comprising about 3 to about 8 ring atoms wherein up to about 3 ring atoms may be N, S, or O or a combination thereof.

          Unless otherwise specifically defined, a tricyclic ring structure comprises 3  
20    fused rings and includes carbon as ring atoms. The tricyclic ring structure can be saturated or unsaturated. The tricyclic ring structure can be unsubstituted, singly substituted or, if possible, multiply substituted, with substituent groups in any possible position. and may be substituted or unsubstituted. The individual rings may or may not be of the same type. Examples of tricyclic ring structures include fluorene  
25    and anthracene.

          Substituent groups for the above moieties useful in the invention are those groups that do not significantly diminish the biological activity of the inventive compound. Substituent groups that do not significantly diminish the biological activity of the inventive compound include, for example, H, halogen, N<sub>3</sub>, NCS, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>,  
30    NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, OX<sub>3</sub>, OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl, NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, NHCOalkyl, CHO, CF<sub>3</sub>, COOX<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub>H, PO<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, CONX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, alkyl, alcohol, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino, di-alkylamino, sulfonamide, thioalkoxy or methylene dioxy when the substituted structure has two adjacent carbon atoms, wherein X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> each

independently comprise H or alkyl, or X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members and X<sub>3</sub> comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl-NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>. Unless otherwise specifically limited a substituent group may be in any possible position.

Some of the inventive compounds showed a high affinity for at least one of the cannabinoid receptors. Thus, an aspect of the invention is use of at least one of the inventive compounds to interact with cannabinoid receptors.

10 Some of the novel pyrazole derivatives show selectivity for the CB1 cannabinoid receptor. These inventive CB1 selective analogs are able to interact with the CB1 receptor without affecting the peripheral (CB2) receptor to the same degree. Therefore, still another aspect of the invention is use of at least one of the inventive compounds to preferentially interact with the CB1 receptor.

15 Additionally, known cannabimimetic pyrazole ligands generally have long *in vivo* half-lives and are more lipophilic than desired for optimal *in vivo* activity. Some of the novel pyrazole analogs described herein are less lipophilic than known cannabimimetic pyrazole ligands and have shorter *in vivo* half-lives than known pyrazole analogs, providing the compounds of this embodiment with a favorable therapeutic profile. Therefore, yet another aspect of the invention is a cannabimimetic pyrazole analog that is less lipophilic than known cannabimimetic pyrazole analogs.

20 Some of the novel pyrazole analogs described herein are CB1 cannabinoid receptor antagonists that prevent binding of endogenous agonists to the cannabinoid receptors and thereby block the biological actions of such endogenous agonists. Therefore, a further aspect of the invention is use of at least one of the inventive compounds to prevent binding of a cannabinoid agonist to the CB1 cannabinoid receptor.

25 The inventive pyrazole analogs described herein, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, have pharmacological properties when administered in therapeutically effective amounts for providing a physiological effect useful to treat marijuana abuse, obesity, schizophrenia, epilepsy, stress, memory disorders, migraine, vomiting, thymic disorders, dyskinesia, kinetic disorder, anxiety disorders,

psychotic disorders, cognitive disorders, appetite disorders, mood disorders, delirious disorders, neuropathies, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimers disease, depression, psychosomatic-induced disease, as well as for alcohol, opioid, nicotine and cocaine addiction, etc. Additionally, these analogs can be used in cancer chemotherapy.

- 5 Thus, another aspect of the invention is the administration of a therapeutically effective amount of an inventive compound, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof, to an individual or animal to provide a physiological effect.

A better understanding of the invention will be obtained from the following detailed description of the article and the desired features, properties,  
10 characteristics, and the relation of the elements as well as the process steps, one with respect to each of the others, as set forth and exemplified in the description and illustrative embodiments.

#### **Brief Description of the Drawings**

- 15 Figure 1 is a graph of a dose vs. response curve for inventive compound 5.

#### **Description of Some Preferred Embodiments**

- As used herein a "therapeutically effective amount" of a compound, is the quantity of a compound which, when administered to an individual or animal, results  
20 in a sufficiently high level of that compound in the individual or animal to cause a physiological response. The inventive compounds described herein, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, have pharmacological properties when administered in therapeutically effective amounts for providing a physiological response useful to treat marijuana abuse, obesity, schizophrenia, epilepsy, stress,  
25 memory disorders, migraine, vomiting, thymic disorders, dyskinesia, kinetic disorder, anxiety disorders, psychotic disorders, cognitive disorders, appetite disorders, mood disorders, delirious disorders, neuropathies, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimers disease, depression, psychosomatic-induced disease, as well as for alcohol, opioid, nicotine and cocaine addiction, etc. Additionally, these analogs can be useful in  
30 cancer chemotherapy. Typically, a "therapeutically effective amount" of an inventive compound is believed to range from about 10 mg/day to about 1,000 mg/day.

As used herein, an "individual" refers to a human. An "animal" refers to, for example, veterinary animals, such as dogs, cats, horses and the like, and farm animals, such as cows, pigs and the like.

The compound of the present invention can be administered by a variety of known methods, including orally, rectally, or by parenteral routes (e.g., intramuscular, intravenous, subcutaneous, nasal or topical). The form in which the compounds are administered will be determined by the route of administration. Such forms include, but are not limited to, capsular and tablet formulations (for oral and rectal administration), liquid formulations (for oral, intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous, ocular, intranasal, inhalation-based and transdermal administration) and slow releasing microcarriers (for rectal, intramuscular or intravenous administration). The formulations can also contain a physiologically acceptable vehicle and optional adjuvants, flavorings, colorants and preservatives. Suitable physiologically acceptable vehicles include, for example, saline, sterile water, Ringer's solution and isotonic sodium chloride solutions. The specific dosage level of active ingredient will depend upon a number of factors, including, for example, biological activity of the particular preparation, age, body weight, sex and general health of the individual being treated.

The following examples are given for purposes of illustration only in order that the present invention may be more fully understood. These examples are not intended to limit in any way the scope of the invention unless otherwise specifically indicated.

#### Examples:

A number of inventive cannabimimetic pyrazole derivatives were prepared. Table 1 illustrates some prepared CB1 selective pyrazole analogs (compounds 1-29). CB1 selective pyrazole analogs comprised compounds 1-6.

Table 1

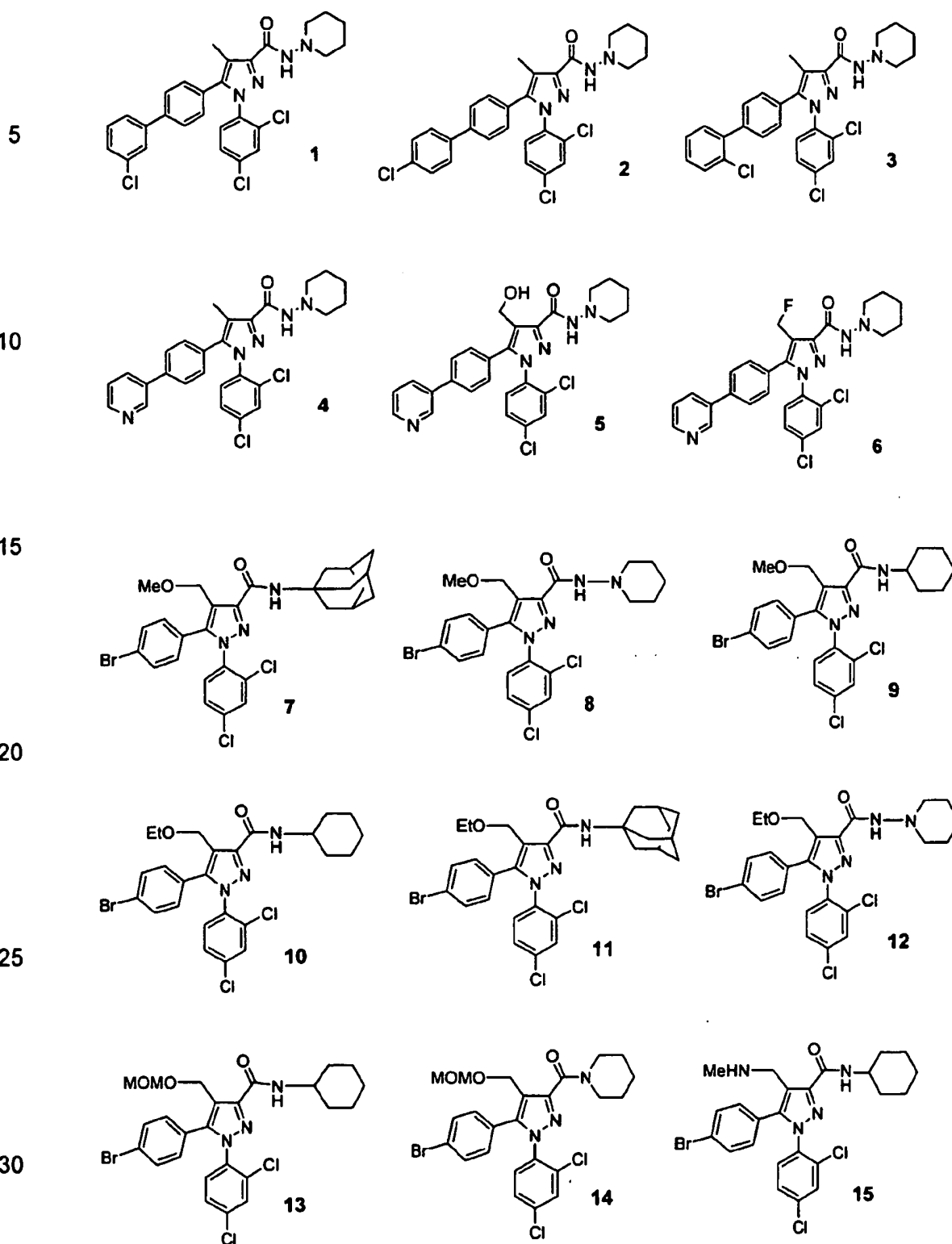
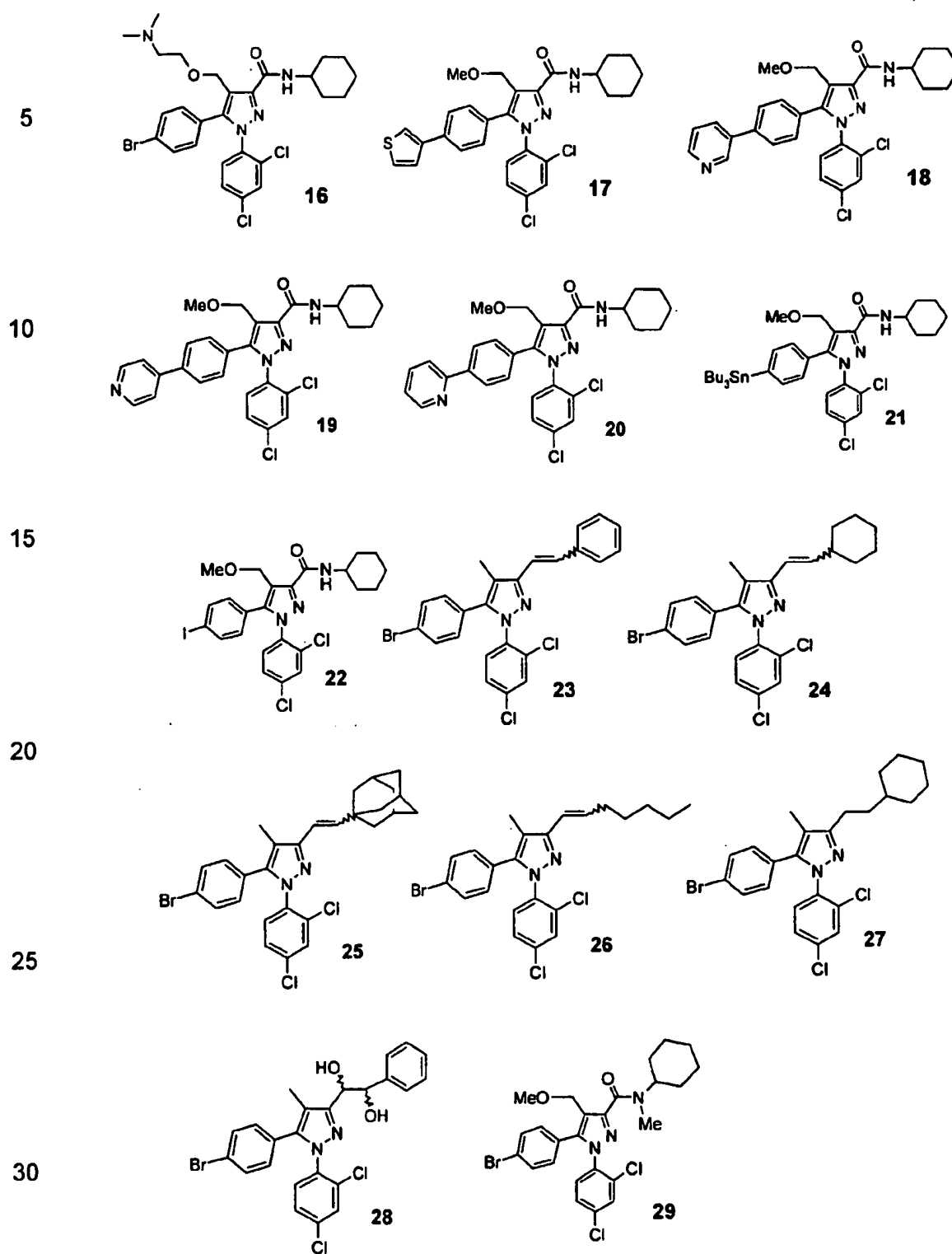


Table 1 (cont.)



Some of the inventive analogs were tested for CB2 receptor binding affinity and for CB1 receptor affinity (to determine selectivity). As used herein, "binding affinity" is represented by the  $K_i$  value which is the inhibition constant correlated with the concentration of an analog required to occupy the 50% of the total number (Bmax) of the receptors. The lower the  $K_i$  value the higher the binding affinity. As used herein an analog is said to have "binding selectivity" if it has higher binding affinity for one receptor compared to the other receptor; e.g. a cannabinoid analog which has a  $K_i$  of 0.1 nM for CB1 and 10 nM for CB2, is 100 times more selective for the CB1 receptor.

For the CB1 receptor binding studies, membranes were prepared from rat forebrain membranes according to the procedure of P.R. Dodd et al, A Rapid Method for Preparing Synaptosomes: Comparison with Alternative Procedures, Brain Res., 107 - 118 (1981). The binding of the novel analogues to the CB1 cannabinoid receptor was assessed as described in W.A. Devane et al, Determination and Characterization of a Cannabinoid Receptor in a Rat Brain, Mol. Pharmacol., 34, 605 - 613 (1988) and A. Charalambous et al, 5'-azido  $\Delta^8$ -THC: A Novel Photoaffinity Label for the Cannabinoid Receptor, J. Med. Chem., 35, 3076 - 3079 (1992) with the following changes. The above articles are incorporated by reference herein.

Membranes, previously frozen at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$ , were thawed on ice. To the stirred suspension was added three volumes of TME (25 mM Tris-HCl buffer, 5 mM  $\text{MgCl}_2$  and 1 mM EDTA) at a pH 7.4. The suspension was incubated at  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 30 min. At the end of the incubation, the membranes were pelleted and washed three times with TME.

The treated membranes were subsequently used in the binding assay described below. Approximately 30  $\mu\text{g}$  of membranes were incubated in silanized 96-well microtiter plate with TME containing 0.1% essentially fatty acid-free bovine serum albumin (BSA), 0.8 nM [ $^3\text{H}$ ] CP-55,940, and various concentrations of test materials in a final volume of 200  $\mu\text{L}$ . The assays were incubated for 1 hour at  $30^{\circ}\text{C}$  and then immediately filtered using Packard Filtermate 196 harvester and Whatman GF/C filterplates and washed with wash buffer (TME) containing 0.5% BSA. Radioactivity was detected using MicroScint 20 scintillation cocktail added directly to the dried filterplates, and the filterplates were counted using a Packard

Instruments Top-Count. Nonspecific binding was assessed using 100 nM CP-55,940. Data collected from three independent experiments performed with duplicate determinations was normalized between 100% and 0% specific binding for [<sup>3</sup>H] CP-55,940, determined using buffer and 100 nM CP-55,940. The normalized data was analyzed using a 4-parameter nonlinear logistic equation to yield IC<sub>50</sub> values. Data from at least two independent experiments performed in duplicate was used to calculate IC<sub>50</sub> values which were converted to K<sub>i</sub> values using the assumptions of Cheng et al, Relationship Between the Inhibition Constant (K<sub>i</sub>) and the concentration of Inhibitor which causes 50% Inhibition (IC<sub>50</sub>) of an Enzymatic Reaction, Biochem. Pharmacol., 22, 3099-3102, (1973), which is incorporated by reference herein.

For the CB2 receptor binding studies, membranes were prepared from frozen mouse spleen essentially according to the procedure of P.R. Dodd et al, A Rapid Method for Preparing Synaptosomes: Comparison with Alternative Procedures, Brain Res., 226, 107 - 118 (1981) which is incorporated by reference herein. Silanized centrifuge tubes were used throughout to minimize receptor loss due to adsorption. The CB2 binding assay was conducted in the same manner as for the CB1 binding assay. The binding affinities (K<sub>i</sub>) were also expressed in nanomoles (nM).

The CB1 cannabinoid receptor binding affinities (K<sub>i</sub>) for the synthesized analogs range between 1.51 and 85.1. The CB2 cannabinoid receptor binding affinities (K<sub>i</sub>) for the synthesized analogs range between 5.81 and 2312. The CB1 cannabinoid receptor selectivity for some of the synthesized analogs range from about 2 to about 452. The CB2 cannabinoid receptor selectivity for some of the synthesized analogs range from about 1 to about 4.

#### Preparation of compounds

**General.** Column chromatography was carried out by using active silica gel (230–400 mesh) available from Selecto Scientific of Suwanee, Georgia. Eluents were distilled before use. Solvents for reactions were dried or purified as required. Reactions were carried out under argon atmosphere unless otherwise noted. All of the reagents are available from Sigma-Aldrich Fine Chemicals of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and/or Lancaster Synthesis Inc. of Windham, New Hampshire.

Modification of the direct aromatic substitution at pyrazole position 1 can be



obtained by varying the respective starting hydrazine (i.e. 2,4-dichlorophenylhydrazine hydrochloride). Typically the starting hydrazine will have the general formula:



5

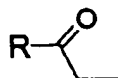
Modification at pyrazole position 3 can be obtained by varying the respective starting material (i.e. 1-aminopiperidine). Typically the starting material will have the general formula:



10

Most of the compounds with substitutions at pyrazole position 5 can be obtained through method A, disclosed below, by varying the starting material (4'-bromopropiophenone shown). Typically the starting material will have the general formula:

15

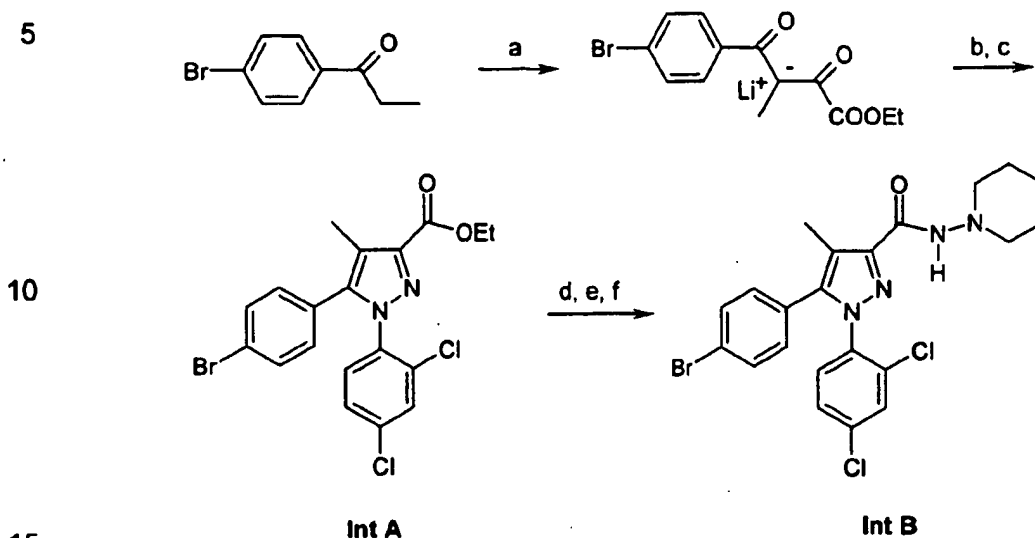


20

The synthesis of most of the above starting materials is disclosed in the existing literature. See, for example, Synthesis, 4, 1999, 588-592. Synthesis of the starting materials not disclosed in the existing literature can be performed by a person skilled in the art using analogous chemistries and with no more than routine experimentation.

# General procedure for the preparation of intermediate (Int.) A and Int B.

## Method A: Modification at Pyrazole Positions 1, 3 and 5



(a) LiHMDS, ether, then  $\text{EtO}_2\text{CCO}_2\text{Et}$ ; (b) 2, 4-Dichlorophenylhydrazine hydrochloride, EtOH; (c) AcOH; (d) KOH/MeOH, HCl/H<sub>2</sub>O; (e)  $\text{SOCl}_2$ , toluene; (f) 1-Aminopiperidine, Et<sub>3</sub>N,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .

20 **Lithium salt of ethyl 2,4-dioxo-3-methyl-4-(4-bromophenyl)butanoate.** To a magnetically stirred solution of lithium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide (40 mL, 1.0 M solution in hexane, 40 mmol) in diethyl ether (120 mL) was added a solution of 4'-bromopropiophenone (8.52 g, 40 mmol) in diethyl ether (50 mL) at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$ . After the mixture was stirred at the same temperature for an additional 45 min, diethyl oxalate

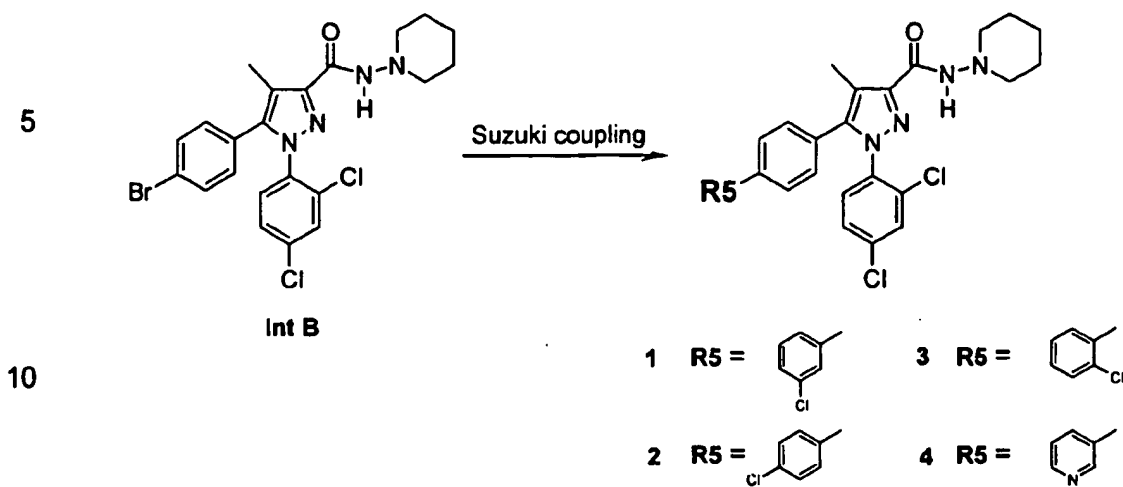
25 (6.4 mL, 47 mmol) was added to the mixture. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature (RT) and stirred for 16 h. The precipitate was filtered, washed with diethyl ether, and dried under vacuum to afford the lithium salt.

**1-(2,4-Dichlorophenyl)-4-methyl-5-(4-bromophenyl)-1H-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid, Ethyl Ester (Int. A).** To a magnetically stirred solution of the above lithium salt (0.64g, 2.0 mmol) in 10 mL of ethanol was added 2,4-dichlorophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (0.47g, 2.2 mmol) at room temperature. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 20 h. The precipitate was

filtered, washed with ethanol and diethyl ether, and then dried under vacuum to give a light yellow solid. This solid was dissolved in acetic acid (7 mL) and heated under reflux for 24 h. The reaction mixture was poured into cold water and extracted multiple times with ethyl acetate. The combined extracts were washed with water, 5 saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate, and brine, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered, and evaporated. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel gave the expected ester Int. A.

***N*-(Piperidin-1-yl)-5-(4-bromophenyl)-1-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-4-methyl-1*H*-pyrazole-3-carboxamide (Int. B).** To a magnetically stirred solution of ester Int. A (0.625 g, 1.38 mmol) in methanol (7 mL) was added a solution of potassium hydroxide (0.155 g, 2.76 mmol) in methanol (5 mL). The mixture was heated under reflux for 3 h. The cooling reaction mixture was then poured into water (10 mL) and acidified with 10% hydrochloric acid. The precipitate was filtered, washed with water, 15 and dried under vacuum to yield the corresponding acid as a solid.

A solution of the crude acid (0.585 g) and thionyl chloride (0.492 g, 4.14 mmol) in toluene (10 mL) was refluxed for 3 h. Solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue was then redissolved in toluene (20 mL) and evaporated to yield the crude carboxylic chloride as a solid. A solution of the above carboxylic chloride (1.24 mmol) in dichloromethane (5 mL) was added dropwise to a solution 20 of 1-aminopiperidine (0.21 mL, 1.92 mmol) in dichloromethane (5 mL) at 0 °C. After stirring at RT for 3 h, the reaction mixture was added with brine and extracted multiple times with dichloromethane. The combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered, and evaporated. Purification by 25 flash column chromatography on silica gel gave the expected amide Int. B.

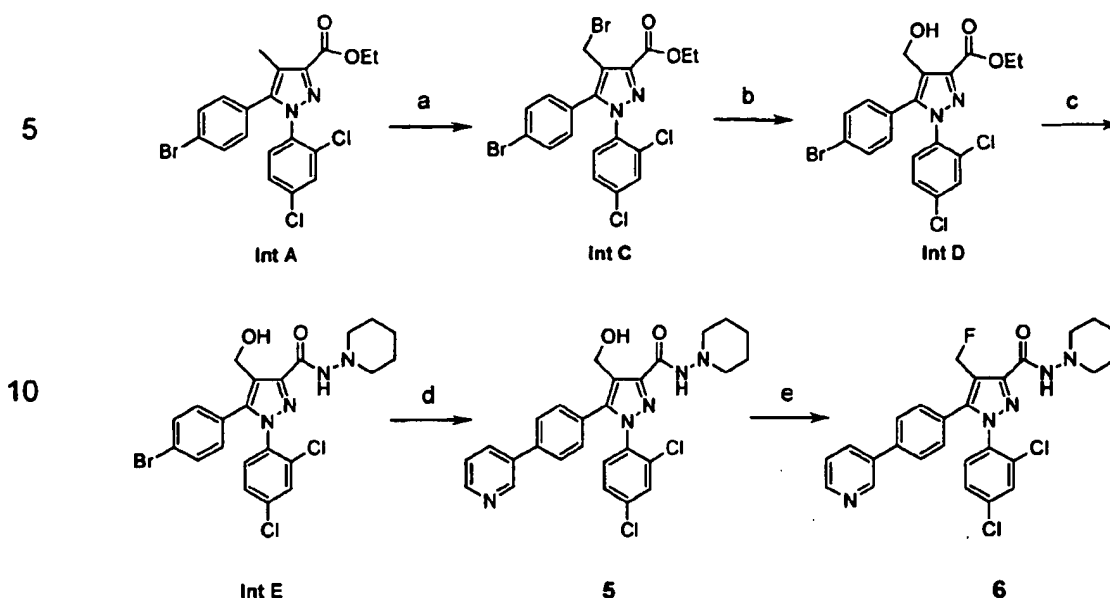
Method B: Alternate Route for 5-Substituted Analogs

Some of the 5-substituted analogs can be prepared from Int. B via a Suzuki  
 15 coupling reaction. The Suzuki coupling reaction allows synthesis of novel  
 compounds in which the 5-phenyl ring is substituted with an aromatic ring or a  
 heteroaromatic ring.

The coupling of a saturated heterocyclic ring (for example, morpholine) on the  
 5-phenyl ring can be obtained by Pd-catalyzed amination reaction (J. Org. Chem.  
 20 2000, 65, 1144-1157).

**General procedure for the Suzuki Coupling reaction:**

To a degassed solution of Int. B (100 mg, 0.197 mmol) and Pd (PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (0.0085  
 mmol, 5 mol%) in 2 mL of DME was added 0.218 mmol of diethyl (3-pyridyl) borane  
 25 or other aromatic boronic acid followed by 0.22 mmol of Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> in 1 mL of water.  
 The resulting mixture was refluxed overnight. After reflux the mixture was diluted  
 with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and water. The organic phase was separated, and the water layer was  
 extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried  
 over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered, and evaporated. Purification by flash  
 30 column chromatography on silica gel gave the expected product.

Method C: Modification at Pyrazole Position 4

(a) NBS, AIBN,  $\text{CCl}_4$ ; (b)  $\text{AgNO}_3$ , aq. acetone; (c)  $\text{AlCl}_3$ , 1-aminopiperidine, 1, 2-dichloroethane; (d)  $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$ , diethyl (3-pyridyl) borane, DME, aq.  $\text{NaCO}_3$ ; (e) DAST,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$

20 These are obtained by functionalizing the 4-methyl group of the parent compound (Int. A). A variety of novel compounds having different substituents at pyrazole position 4 can be obtained. Similarly, modifications at pyrazole positions 3 and 5 can be obtained as shown under Method C.

25 **Int. C.** To a magnetically stirred solution of Int. A (2.02g, 4.44 mmol) in carbon tetrachloride (30 mL) was added *N*-bromosuccinimide (0.87 g, 4.89 mmol) and 2,2'-azobisisobutyronitrile (AIBN, 10 mg). The resulting mixture was refluxed for 3 h. After cooling to RT, the precipitate was filtered. The solvent was removed from the filtrate under reduced pressure to give the title product.

30

**Int. D.** To a magnetically stirred solution of silver nitrate (2.65g, 15.6 mmol) in 100 mL of 50% aqueous acetone at RT was added a suspension of Int. C (2.36g,

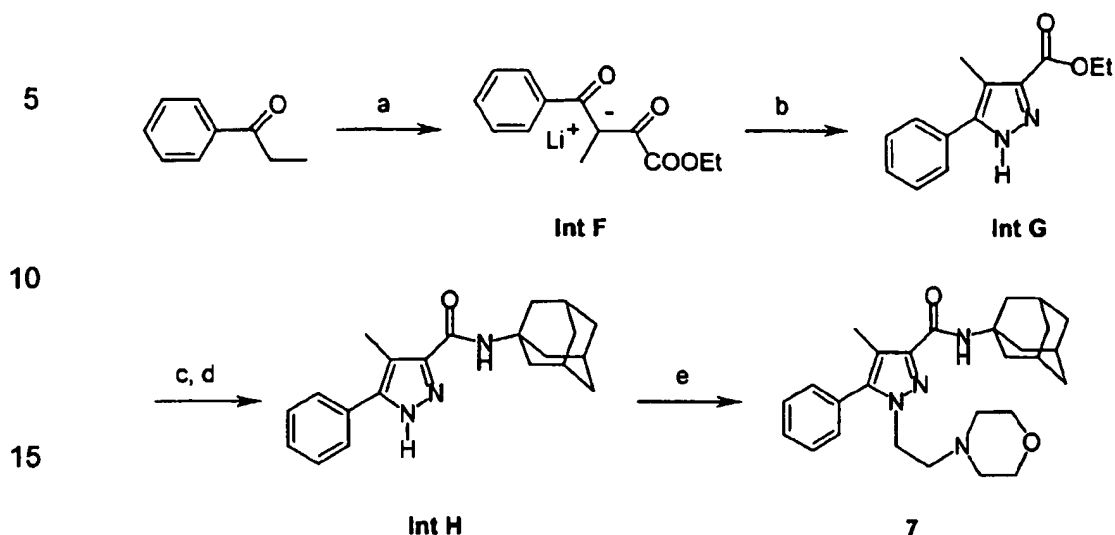
4.43 mmol) in 70% aqueous acetone. The mixture was stirred at 60 °C overnight. After cooling to RT, the insoluble material was filtered off and the filtrate was concentrated under vacuum to evaporate acetone. The residue was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The organic layer was washed twice with water, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel gave the title product.

**Int. E.** To a magnetically stirred suspension of AlCl<sub>3</sub> (1.16g, 8.62 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (20 mL) in an ice bath was added 1-aminopiperidine (2.0 mL, 18.0 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (5 mL). The suspension was allowed to warm to RT. The solution of Int. D (2.03g, 4.43 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (5 mL) was added into the above suspension and the mixture was stirred at RT for 2 h before quenching with a mixture of ice and H<sub>2</sub>O. The mixture was stirred for a further 0.5 h and the resulting suspension was filtered through Celite and the organic phase separated. The aqueous phase was extracted multiple times with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and the organic phases combined, washed with H<sub>2</sub>O, brine, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel gave the title product.

**Compound 5.** Compound 5 was obtained from Int. E using a Suzuki coupling reaction as described above.

**Compound 6.** To a magnetically stirred solution of compound 5 (30 mg, 0.057 mmol) in 1.5 mL of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> at 0 °C was added DAST. After 1h, the reaction mixture was poured into saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (2 mL) and was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The organic phases combined, washed with H<sub>2</sub>O, brine, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel gave the title product.

An alternate method for obtaining analogs with 1-alkyl substituents is described under Method D.

Method D: Modification at Pyrazole Position 1

(a) LiHMDS, ether, then EtO<sub>2</sub>CCO<sub>2</sub>Et; (b) Hydrazine hydrochloride, EtOH; (c) KOH/MeOH; HCl/H<sub>2</sub>O (d) CO(imid)<sub>2</sub>/DMF, 1-adamantanamine; (e) NaH/DMF, 4-(2-chloroethyl)morpholine.

**Int. F.** To a magnetically stirred solution of lithium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide (40 mL, 1.0 M solution in hexane, 40 mmol) in diethyl ether (120 mL) was added a solution of propiophenone (5.30 g, 40 mmol) in diethyl ether (50 mL) at  $-78^{\circ}\text{C}$ . After the mixture was stirred at the same temperature for additional 45 min, diethyl oxalate (6.4 mL, 47 mmol) was added to the mixture. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature (RT) and stirred for 16 h. The precipitate was filtered, washed with diethyl ether, and dried under vacuum to afford the lithium salt (Int. F).

**Int. G** To a magnetically stirred solution of the above lithium salt (7.58 g, 32 mmol) in 250 mL of ethanol was added hydrazine hydrochloride (2.4 g, 35 mmol) at room temperature. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 20 h. After stirring the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the mixture was added with brine and extracted multiple times with dichloromethane. The combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered, and evaporated. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel gave the expected ester (Int. G).

**Int. H** To a magnetically stirred solution of ester Int. G (5.88 g, 26 mmol) in methanol (150 mL) was added 10% aqueous potassium hydroxide (36 mL, 64 mmol). The resulting mixture was heated under reflux for 3 h. The cooling reaction  
5 mixture was then poured into water and acidified with 10% hydrochloric acid. The precipitate was filtered, washed with water, and dried under vacuum to yield the corresponding acid as a solid.

To a magnetically stirred solution of the above acid (4.02 g, 16 mmol) in 45 mL of DMF was added 1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole (2.8 g, 17 mmol) in one portion at RT  
10 and the mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 3 hrs. To the above mixture was added a mixture of 1-adamantanamine (2.6 g, 17 mmol) in 45 mL of DMF. The resulting mixture was heated at 60 °C overnight. DMF was removed under reduced pressure. Ethyl acetate was added to the residue, and the mixture was filtered to collect the solid.

15

**Compound 7.** To a magnetically stirred solution of Int. H (188 mg, 0.56 mmol) in 4 mL of DMF, was added NaH (60% dispersion in mineral oil, 35 mg, 0.87 mmol) at 0 °C and the mixture was stirred at RT for 3 hrs. After stirring, the reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C and a solution of 4-(2-chloroethyl)morpholine (185 mg, 1.25  
20 mmol) in 1 mL of DMF was added. The resulting mixture was heated at 60 °C for 3 hrs. After heating, brine was added to the mixture, which was subsequently extracted multiple times with dichloromethane. The combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered, and evaporated. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel gave the expected product.

25

11 rats were trained to press a lever five times to receive a 45 mg food pellet. The training continued over a time period of several weeks. After the training period all rats received drug treatments once per week. The specific rat receiving a drug treatment and the dosage given were each randomly varied. The treatments  
30 comprised administration of a vehicle control solution or various dosages of inventive compound 5 in combination with the vehicle control solution. All injections were given IP. Ten minutes after injection the rat was placed in proximity to the lever.

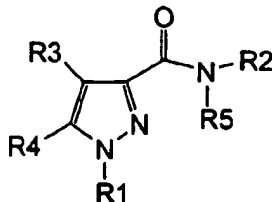


Figure 1 illustrates a mean ( $\pm$ SEM) number of lever presses in 30 min for treated animals. The overall suppression of food-reinforced lever pressing was statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ). Figure 1 illustrates a classic dose response curve wherein as the dose of drug (inventive compound 5) increases, lever pressing  
5 consistently decreases. Without wishing to be bound to any theory, applicants believe that inventive compound 5 antagonizes (blocks) the CB1 receptors, thereby suppressing appetite and leading to decreased lever pressing.

Those skilled in the art will recognize, or be able to ascertain with no more than routine experimentation, many equivalents to the specific embodiments of the  
10 invention disclosed herein. Such equivalents are intended to be encompassed by the scope of the invention.

**What Is Claimed Is:**

1. A compound of formula I below, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, comprising:



wherein,

R1 comprises  $-(CH_2)_n-Z$ ,

n is an integer from 0 to about 7, and

Z comprises H, halogen,  $N_3$ , NCS, CN,  $NO_2$ ,  $NX_1X_2$ ,  $OX_3$ , OAc, O-acyl, O-aryl,  $O(CH_2)_nOH$ ,  $O(CH_2)_nNX_1X_2$ , NH-acyl, NH-aryl, CHO,  $CF_3$ ,  $COOX_3$ ,  $SO_3H$ ,  $SO_2NX_1X_2$ ,  $CONX_1X_2$ , alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino,

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members,

$X_3$  comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl- $NX_1X_2$ ,

n is an integer from 0 to about 6, or

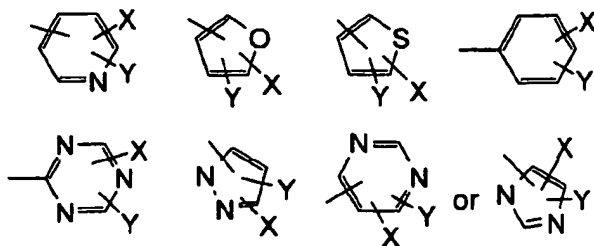
Z comprises a carbocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, an aromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a tricyclic ring, a heterotricyclic ring; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring atom by an alkyl group; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted benzhydryl group; and

wherein the connecting point between the  $-(CH_2)_n-$  group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom, or

Z comprises a 5 member unsaturated ring having 0 to 2 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members, a substituted 5 member unsaturated ring having 0 to 2 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members, a 6 member aromatic ring having 0 to 3 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members or a substituted 6 member aromatic ring having 0 to 3 independently selected heteroatoms; and wherein the connecting point between the  $-(CH_2)_n-$  group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom, or

Z comprises 1-, 2- or 3-pyrrolidinyl, 1-, 2-, 3- or 4-piperidinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-morpholinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-thiomorpholinyl, 1-, 2- or 3-azetidinyl, 1- or 2-piperazinyl, 2- or 3-tetrahydrofuranyl; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring atom by an alkyl group; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the  $-(CH_2)_n-$  group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom, or

Z comprises



wherein X and Y each independently comprise H, halogen,  $N_3$ , NCS, CN,  $NO_2$ ,  $NX_1X_2$ ,  $OX_3$ , OAc, O-acyl, O-aryl, NH-acyl, NH-aryl, CHO,  $CF_3$ ,  $COOX_3$ ,  $SO_3H$ ,  $SO_2NX_1X_2$ ,  $CONX_1X_2$ , alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or dialkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, or methylene dioxy when Z comprises a structure having two adjacent carbon atoms,

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members,

$X_3$  comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl- $NX_1X_2$ , or

$R_1$  comprises a carbocyclic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heterocyclic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, a carbocyclic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heteroaromatic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, a heterocyclic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heterocyclic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, an heterocyclic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heteroaromatic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, an aromatic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heterocyclic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, an aromatic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heteroaromatic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, a heteroaromatic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heterocyclic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms or a heteroaromatic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heteroaromatic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms;

$R_2$  comprises a carbocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 members, a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 members, an aromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 members, a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a tricyclic ring or a heterotricyclic ring, or

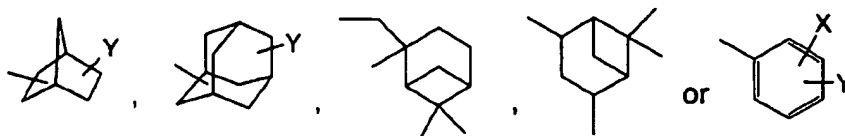


wherein G comprises CH or N, and L and J each independently comprise  $(CH_2)_n$ , O, NH or S and n is an integer from 0 to about 7, or



wherein G, L and J each independently comprise CH or N, or

R2 comprises



wherein X and Y each independently comprise H, halogen, N<sub>3</sub>, NCS, Ph, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, OX<sub>3</sub>, OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl, NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, CHO, CF<sub>3</sub>, COOX<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub>H, SO<sub>2</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, CONX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, alkyl, alcohol, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or dialkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, or alkylsulfonyl,

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members,

X<sub>3</sub> comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl-NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, or

R2 comprises a carbocyclic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heterocyclic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, a carbocyclic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heteroaromatic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, a heterocyclic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heterocyclic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, an heterocyclic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heteroaromatic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, an aromatic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heterocyclic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, an aromatic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heteroaromatic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, a heteroaromatic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heterocyclic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms or a heteroaromatic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heteroaromatic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms;

R3 comprises H, halogen, N<sub>3</sub>, NCS, Ph, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, OX<sub>3</sub>, OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl, NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>OH, O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, CHO, CF<sub>3</sub>, COOX<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub>H, SO<sub>2</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, CONX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, alkyl, alcohol, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or dialkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, or alkylsulfonyl,

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

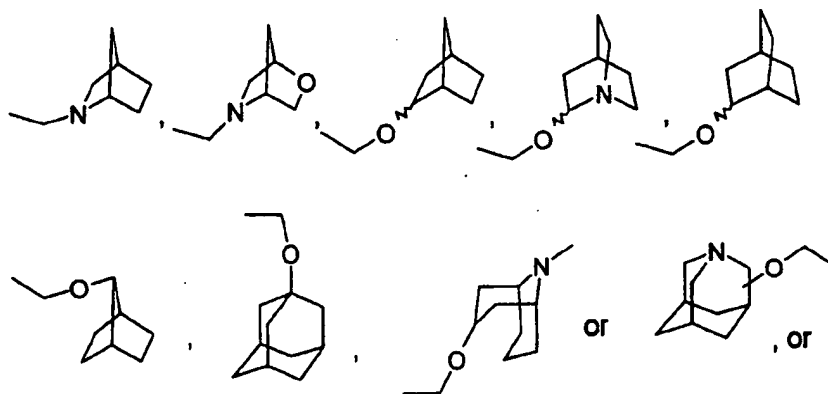
$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members),

$X_3$  comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl- $NX_1X_2$ ,

$n$  is an integer from 0 to about 6, or

$R_3$  comprises a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a tricyclic ring, a heterotricyclic ring, a polycyclic ring or a heteropolycyclic ring, or

$R_3$  comprises



$R_3$  comprises  $-CH_2-Z$ ,

$Z$  comprises H, halogen,  $N_3$ , NCS, Ph, CN,  $NO_2$ ,  $NX_1X_2$ ,  $OX_3$ , OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl,  $O(CH_2)_nOH$ ,  $O(CH_2)_nNX_1X_2$ , NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, CHO,  $CF_3$ ,  $COOX_3$ ,  $SO_3H$ ,  $SO_2NX_1X_2$ ,  $CONX_1X_2$ , alkyl, alcohol, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, or alkylsulfonyl,

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members),

X<sub>3</sub> comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl-NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>,

n is an integer from 0 to about 6, or

Z comprises a carbocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, an aromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a tricyclic ring or a heterotricyclic ring; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring atom by an alkyl group; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>- group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom, or

Z comprises 1-, 2- or 3-pyrrolidinyl, 1-, 2-, 3- or 4-piperidinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-morpholinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-thiomorpholinyl, 1-, 2- or 3-azetidiny, 1- or 2-piperazinyl, 2- or 3-tetrahydrofuranyl; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>- group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom, or

R<sub>3</sub> comprises -CH<sub>2</sub>OH or -CH<sub>2</sub>Oalkyl, or

R<sub>3</sub> comprises -CH<sub>2</sub>-Q-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-Z,

Q comprises N, O, S, CH<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> or OSO<sub>2</sub>,

n is an integer from 0 to about 7, and

Z comprises H, halogen, N<sub>3</sub>, NCS, Ph, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, OX<sub>3</sub>, OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl, NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>OH, O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, CHO, CF<sub>3</sub>, COOX<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub>H, SO<sub>2</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, CONX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, alkyl, alcohol, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, or alkylsulfonyl,

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members,

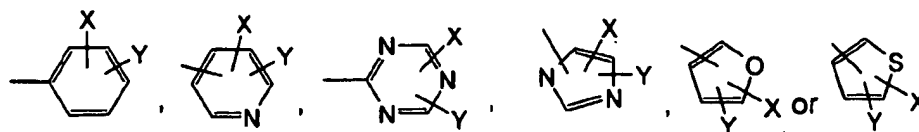
$X_3$  comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl- $NX_1X_2$ ,

$n$  is an integer from 0 to about 6, or

$Z$  comprises a carbocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, an aromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring atom by an alkyl group; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the  $-(CH_2)_n-$  group and the  $Z$  group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom, or

$Z$  comprises 1-, 2- or 3-pyrrolidinyl, 1-, 2-, 3- or 4-piperidinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-morpholinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-thiomorpholinyl, 1-, 2- or 3-azetidiny, 1- or 2-piperaziny, 2- or 3-tetrahydrofurany; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring atom by an alkyl group; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the  $-(CH_2)_n-$  group and the  $Z$  group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom, or

$Z$  comprises





wherein X and Y each independently comprise H, halogen, N<sub>3</sub>, NCS, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, OX<sub>3</sub>, OAc, O-acyl, O-aryl, NH-acyl, NH-aryl, CHO, CF<sub>3</sub>, alcohol, COOX<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub>H, SO<sub>2</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, CONX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, or methylene dioxy when Z comprises a structure having two adjacent carbon atoms,

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members,

X<sub>3</sub> comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl-NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>;

R<sub>4</sub> comprises -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-Z,

n comprises an integer from 0 to about 7,

Z comprises H, halogen, N<sub>3</sub>, NCS, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, OX<sub>3</sub>, OAc, O-acyl, O-aryl, O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>OH, O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, NH-acyl, NH-aryl, CHO, CF<sub>3</sub>, COOX<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub>H, SO<sub>2</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, CONX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, or alkylsulfonyl,

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members,

X<sub>3</sub> comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl-NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>,

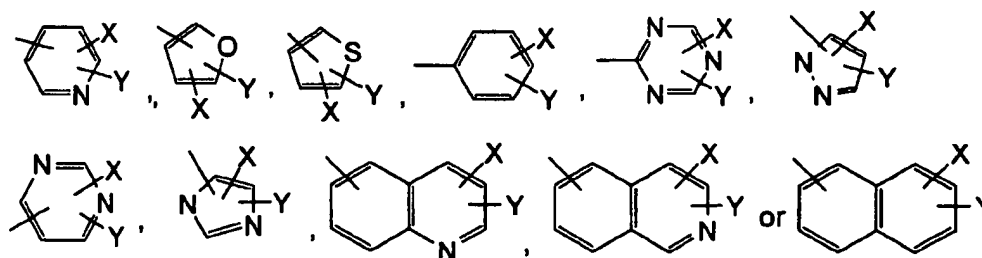
n is an integer from 0 to about 6, or

Z comprises a carbocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, an aromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a polycyclic ring, a heteropolycyclic ring; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring

atom by a lower-alkyl group; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the  $-(CH_2)_n-$  group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom, or

Z comprises 1-, 2- or 3-pyrrolidinyl, 1-, 2-, 3- or 4-piperidinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-morpholinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-thiomorpholinyl, 1-, 2- or 3-azetidiny, 1- or 2-piperazinyl, 2- or 3-tetrahydrofuranyl; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring atom by a lower-alkyl group; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the  $-(CH_2)_n-$  group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom, or

Z comprises



wherein X and Y each independently comprise H, halogen,  $N_3$ , NCS, CN,  $NO_2$ ,  $NX_1X_2$ ,  $OX_3$ , OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl, NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, alcohol, CHO,  $CF_3$ ,  $COOX_3$ ,  $SO_3H$ ,  $SO_2NX_1X_2$ ,  $CONX_1X_2$ , alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, or methylene dioxy when Z comprises a structure having two adjacent carbon atoms,

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members,

$X_3$  comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl- $NX_1X_2$ , or

Z comprises an unsaturated ring having 5 ring atoms and 0 to 2 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members fused to an unsaturated ring having 5 ring atoms and 0 to 2 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members, an unsaturated ring having 5 ring atoms and 0 to 2 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members fused to an unsaturated ring having 6 or 7 ring atoms and 0 to 3 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members or an unsaturated ring having 6 ring atoms and 0 to 3 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members fused to an unsaturated ring having 6 or 7 ring atoms and 0 to 3 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members, or

R4 comprises  $-CH_2-Q-(CH_2)_n-Z$ ,

Q comprises N, O, S,  $CH_3$ ,  $SO_2$  or  $OSO_2$ ,

n is an integer from 0 to about 7,

Z comprises H, halogen,  $N_3$ , NCS, CN,  $NO_2$ ,  $NX_1X_2$ ,  $OX_3$ , OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl,  $O(CH_2)_nOH$ ,  $O(CH_2)_nNX_1X_2$ , NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, CHO,  $CF_3$ ,  $COOX_3$ ,  $SO_3H$ ,  $SO_2NX_1X_2$ ,  $CONX_1X_2$ , alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino,

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members,

$X_3$  comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl- $NX_1X_2$ ,

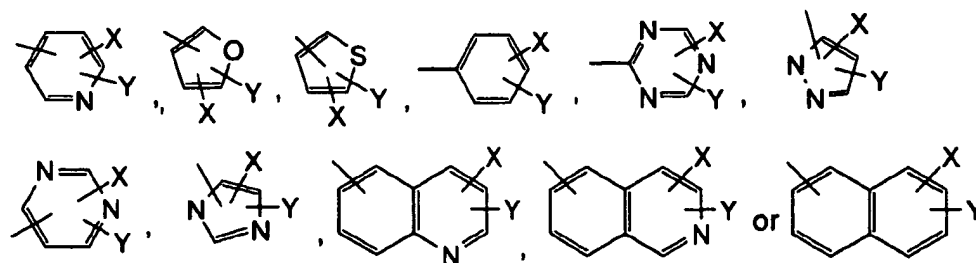
n is an integer from 0 to about 6, or

Z comprises a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a tricyclic ring, a heterotricyclic ring, a polycyclic ring or a heteropolycyclic ring, or

Z comprises a carbocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, an aromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring atom by a lower-alkyl group; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the  $-(CH_2)_n-$  group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom, or

Z comprises 1-, 2- or 3-pyrrolidinyl, 1-, 2-, 3- or 4-piperidinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-morpholinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-thiomorpholinyl, 1-, 2- or 3-azetidiny, 1- or 2-piperazinyl, 2- or 3-tetrahydrofuranyl; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring atom by a lower-alkyl group; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the  $-(CH_2)_n-$  group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom, or

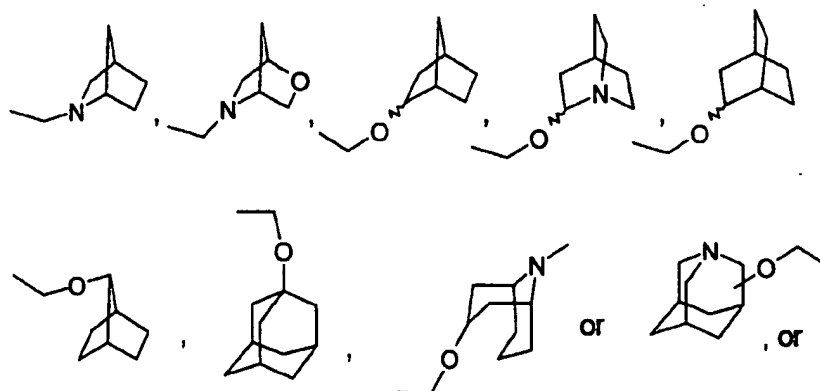
Z comprises



wherein X and Y each independently comprise H, halogen,  $N_3$ , NCS, CN,  $NO_2$ ,  $NX_1X_2$ ,  $OX_3$ , OAc, O-acyl, O-aryl, NH-acyl, NH-aryl, alcohol, CHO,  $CF_3$ , alcohol,  $COOX_3$ ,  $SO_3H$ ,  $SO_2NX_1X_2$ ,  $CONX_1X_2$ , alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, or methylene dioxy when Z comprises a structure having two adjacent carbon atoms, or

Z comprises an unsaturated ring having 5 ring atoms and 0 to 2 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members fused to an unsaturated ring having 5 ring atoms and 0 to 2 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members, an unsaturated ring having 5 ring atoms and 0 to 2 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members fused to an unsaturated ring having 6 or 7 ring atoms and 0 to 3 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members or an unsaturated ring having 6 ring atoms and 0 to 3 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members fused to an unsaturated ring having 6 or 7 ring atoms and 0 to 3 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members, or

Z comprises



R4 comprises  $-T-(CH_2)_n-Z$ ,

n comprises an integer from 0 to about 7,

T comprises a carbocyclic ring having 3 to about 8 ring members, an unsaturated ring having 3 to about 8 carbon atoms as ring members, a heterocyclic ring having 3 to about 8 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having 5 to about 8 ring members, a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a tricyclic ring, a heterotricyclic ring, a polycyclic ring or a heteropolycyclic ring,

Z comprises H, halogen,  $N_3$ , NCS, CN,  $NO_2$ ,  $NX_1X_2$ ,  $OX_3$ , OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl,  $O(CH_2)_nOH$ ,  $O(CH_2)_nNX_1X_2$ , NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, CHO,  $CF_3$ ,  $COOX_3$ ,  $SO_3H$ ,  $SO_2NX_1X_2$ ,  $CONX_1X_2$ , alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino alkylsulfinyl, or alkylsulfonyl,

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members,

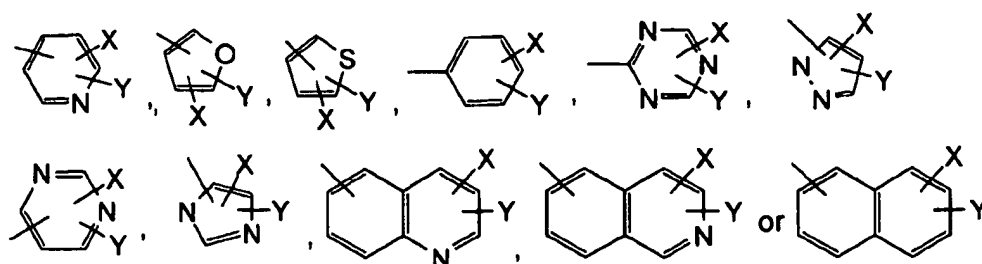
$X_3$  comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl- $NX_1X_2$ ,

$n$  is an integer from 0 to about 6, or

$Z$  comprises a carbocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, an aromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a polycyclic ring, a heteropolycyclic ring; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring atom by a lower-alkyl group; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the  $-(CH_2)_n$ - group and the  $Z$  group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom, or

$Z$  comprises 1-, 2- or 3-pyrrolidinyl, 1-, 2-, 3- or 4-piperidinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-morpholinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-thiomorpholinyl, 1-, 2- or 3-azetidiny, 1- or 2-piperazinyl, 2- or 3-tetrahydrofuranyl; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring atom by a lower-alkyl group; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the  $-(CH_2)_n$ - group and the  $Z$  group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom, or

Z comprises



wherein X and Y each independently comprise H, halogen, N<sub>3</sub>, NCS, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, OX<sub>3</sub>, OAc, O-acyl, O-aryl, NH-acyl, NH-aryl, alcohol, CHO, CF<sub>3</sub>, COOX<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub>H, SO<sub>2</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, CONX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, or methylene dioxy when Z comprises a structure having two adjacent carbon atoms.

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members,

X<sub>3</sub> comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl-NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, or

Z comprises an unsaturated ring having 5 ring atoms and 0 to 2 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members fused to an unsaturated ring having 5 ring atoms and 0 to 2 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members, an unsaturated ring having 5 ring atoms and 0 to 2 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members fused to an unsaturated ring having 6 or 7 ring atoms and 0 to 3 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members or an unsaturated ring having 6 ring atoms and 0 to 3 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members fused to an unsaturated ring having 6 or 7 ring atoms and 0 to 3 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members, or

R<sub>4</sub> comprises -Ph-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-Z,

n comprises an integer from 0 to about 7,

Z comprises H, halogen, N<sub>3</sub>, NCS, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, OX<sub>3</sub>, OAc, O-acyl,

O-aroyl,  $O(CH_2)_nOH$ ,  $O(CH_2)_nNX_1X_2$ , NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, CHO,  $CF_3$ ,  $COOX_3$ ,  $SO_3H$ ,  $SO_2NX_1X_2$ ,  $CONX_1X_2$ , alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino,

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

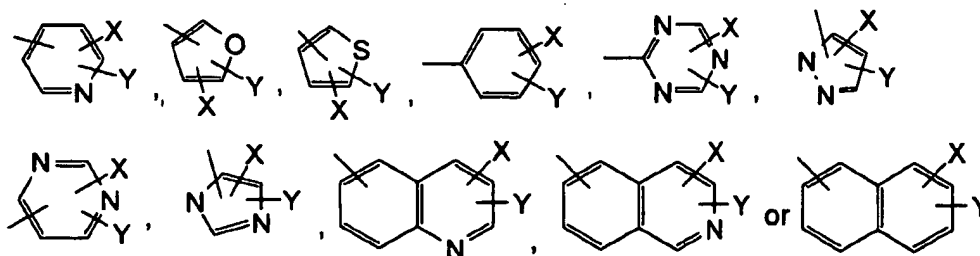
$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members,

$X_3$  comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl- $NX_1X_2$ ,

$n$  is an integer from 0 to about 6, or

Z comprises



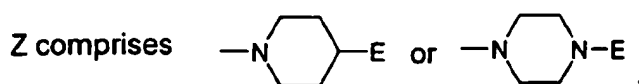
wherein X and Y each independently comprise H, halogen,  $N_3$ , NCS, CN,  $NO_2$ ,  $NX_1X_2$ ,  $OX_3$ , OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl, NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, CHO,  $CF_3$ , alcohol,  $COOX_3$ ,  $SO_3H$ ,  $SO_2NX_1X_2$ ,  $CONX_1X_2$ , alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, lower-alkylsulfonyl, or methylene dioxy when Z comprises a structure having two adjacent carbon atoms,

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members,

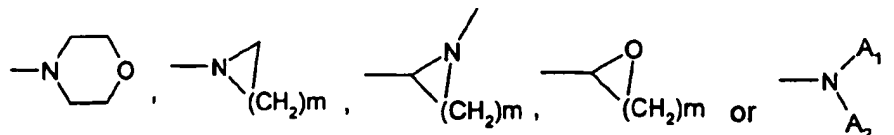
$X_3$  comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl- $NX_1X_2$ , or





E comprises a C1 to about C4, linear or branched alkyl group, a phenyl group, a substituted phenyl group, a benzyl group or a substituted benzyl group, or

Z comprises



m is an integer from 1 to about 5, A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2</sub> each independently comprise a C1 to about C4 alkyl group, a phenyl group or a substituted phenyl group; and

R5 comprises H, alkyl or substituted alkyl;

with the provisos that:

a) if R1 is phenyl or substituted phenyl and R4 is phenyl or substituted phenyl, then R2 can not be a heterocyclic or heteroaromatic moiety, and

b) if R4 is substituted phenyl and R3 is H or an alkyl chain having 1 to about 4 carbon atoms then R1 can not be a branched or unbranched chain having the formula (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>Z where n is an integer from 1 to about 10 and Z is selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, N<sub>3</sub>, NCS, CN, OH, OCH<sub>3</sub>, NH<sub>2</sub> and CH=CH<sub>2</sub>.

2. The compound of claim 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein R1 comprises -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-Z,

n is an integer from 0 to about 7, and

Z comprises H, halogen, N<sub>3</sub>, NCS, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, OX<sub>3</sub>, OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl, O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>OH, O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, CHO, CF<sub>3</sub>, COOX<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub>H, SO<sub>2</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, CONX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino,

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members,

$X_3$  comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl- $NX_1X_2$ ,

$n$  is an integer from 0 to about 6.

3. The compound of claim 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein R1 comprises  $-(CH_2)_n-Z$ ,

$n$  is an integer from 0 to about 7, and

Z comprises a carbocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, an aromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a tricyclic ring, a heterotricyclic ring; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring atom by an alkyl group; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the  $-(CH_2)_n-$  group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom.

4. The compound of claim 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein R1 comprises  $-(CH_2)_n-Z$ ,

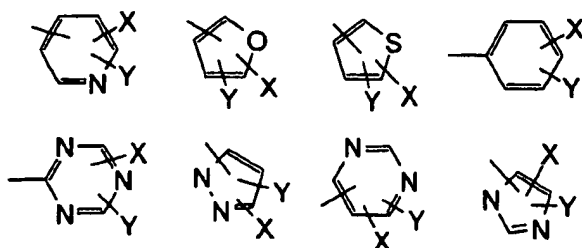
$n$  is an integer from 0 to about 7, and

Z comprises 1-, 2- or 3-pyrrolidinyl, 1-, 2-, 3- or 4-piperidinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-morpholinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-thiomorpholinyl, 1-, 2- or 3-azetidiny, 1- or 2-piperazinyl, 2- or 3-tetrahydrofuranyl; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring atom by an alkyl group; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the  $-(CH_2)_n-$  group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom.

5. The compound of claim 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein R1 comprises  $-(CH_2)_n-Z$ ,

n is an integer from 0 to about 7, and

Z comprises



wherein X and Y each independently comprise H, halogen,  $N_3$ , NCS, CN,  $NO_2$ ,  $NX_1X_2$ ,  $OX_3$ , OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl, NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, CHO,  $CF_3$ ,  $COOX_3$ ,  $SO_3H$ ,  $SO_2NX_1X_2$ ,  $CONX_1X_2$ , alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, or methylene dioxy when Z comprises a structure having two adjacent carbon atoms,

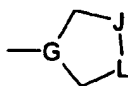
$X_1$  and  $X_2$  each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members,

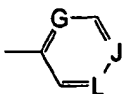
$X_3$  comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl- $NX_1X_2$ .

6. The compound of claim 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein R2 comprises



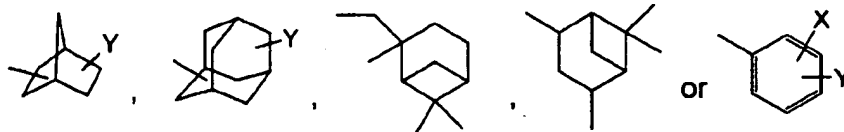
and G comprises CH or N, and L and J each independently comprise  $(CH_2)_n$ , O, NH or S and n is an integer from 0 to about 7.

7. The compound of claim 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein R2 comprises



and G, L and J each independently comprise CH or N.

8. The compound of claim 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein R2 comprises



and wherein X and Y each independently comprise H, halogen, N<sub>3</sub>, NCS, Ph, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, OX<sub>3</sub>, OAc, O-acyl, O-aryl, NH-acyl, NH-aryl, CHO, CF<sub>3</sub>, COOX<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub>H, SO<sub>2</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, CONX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, alkyl, alcohol, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or dialkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, or alkylsulfonyl,

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members,

X<sub>3</sub> comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl-NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>.

9. The compound of claim 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein R2 comprises a carbocyclic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heterocyclic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, a carbocyclic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heteroaromatic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, a heterocyclic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heterocyclic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, an heterocyclic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heteroaromatic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, an aromatic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heterocyclic ring having from 5 to 7 ring

atoms, an aromatic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heteroaromatic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, a heteroaromatic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heterocyclic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms or a heteroaromatic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heteroaromatic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms.

10. The compound of claim 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein R3 comprises  $-\text{CH}_2-\text{Z}$ ,

Z comprises H, halogen,  $\text{N}_3$ , NCS, Ph, CN,  $\text{NO}_2$ ,  $\text{NX}_1\text{X}_2$ ,  $\text{OX}_3$ , OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl,  $\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{OH}$ ,  $\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{NX}_1\text{X}_2$ , NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, CHO,  $\text{CF}_3$ ,  $\text{COOX}_3$ ,  $\text{SO}_3\text{H}$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{NX}_1\text{X}_2$ ,  $\text{CONX}_1\text{X}_2$ , alkyl, alcohol, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, or alkylsulfonyl,

$\text{X}_1$  and  $\text{X}_2$  each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

$\text{X}_1$  and  $\text{X}_2$  together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

$\text{X}_1$  and  $\text{X}_2$  together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members,

$\text{X}_3$  comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl- $\text{NX}_1\text{X}_2$ ,

n is an integer from 0 to about 6.

11. The compound of claim 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein R4 comprises  $-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{Z}$ ,

n comprises an integer from 0 to about 7, and

Z comprises H, halogen,  $\text{N}_3$ , NCS, CN,  $\text{NO}_2$ ,  $\text{NX}_1\text{X}_2$ ,  $\text{OX}_3$ , OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl,  $\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{OH}$ ,  $\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{NX}_1\text{X}_2$ , NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, CHO,  $\text{CF}_3$ ,  $\text{COOX}_3$ ,  $\text{SO}_3\text{H}$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{NX}_1\text{X}_2$ ,  $\text{CONX}_1\text{X}_2$ , alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, or alkylsulfonyl,

$\text{X}_1$  and  $\text{X}_2$  each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

$\text{X}_1$  and  $\text{X}_2$  together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members,

$X_3$  comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl- $NX_1X_2$ ,

$n$  is an integer from 0 to about 6.

12. The compound of claim 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein  $R_4$  comprises  $-(CH_2)_n-Z$ ,

$n$  comprises an integer from 0 to about 7, and

$Z$  comprises a carbocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, an aromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a polycyclic ring, a heteropolycyclic ring; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring atom by a lower-alkyl group; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the  $-(CH_2)_n-$  group and the  $Z$  group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom.

13. The compound of claim 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein  $R_4$  comprises  $-(CH_2)_n-Z$ ,

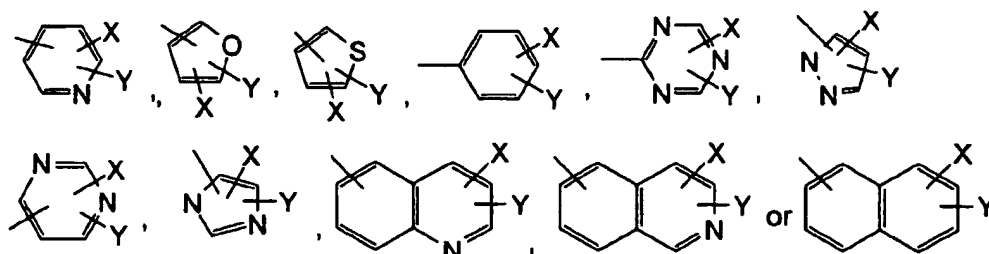
$n$  comprises an integer from 0 to about 7, and

$Z$  comprises 1-, 2- or 3-pyrrolidinyl, 1-, 2-, 3- or 4-piperidinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-morpholinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-thiomorpholinyl, 1-, 2- or 3-azetidiny, 1- or 2-piperazinyl, 2- or 3-tetrahydrofuranyl; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring atom by a lower-alkyl group; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the  $-(CH_2)_n-$  group and the  $Z$  group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom.

14. The compound of claim 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein R4 comprises  $-(CH_2)_n-Z$ ,

**n** comprises an integer from 0 to about 7, and

**Z comprises**



wherein X and Y each independently comprise H, halogen, N<sub>3</sub>, NCS, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, OX<sub>3</sub>, OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl, NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, alcohol, CHO, CF<sub>3</sub>, COOX<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub>H, SO<sub>2</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, CONX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, or methylene dioxy when Z comprises a structure having two adjacent carbon atoms.

**X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> each independently comprise H or alkyl, or**

**X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or**

**X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members.**

**X<sub>3</sub> comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl-NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>.**

15. The compound of claim 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein R4 comprises  $-(CH_2)_n-Z$ ,

**n** comprises an integer from 0 to about 7, and

**Z comprises an unsaturated ring having 5 ring atoms and 0 to 2 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members fused to an unsaturated ring having 5 ring atoms and 0 to 2 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members, an unsaturated ring having 5 ring atoms and 0 to 2 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members fused to an unsaturated ring having 6 or 7 ring atoms and 0 to 3**

independently selected heteroatoms as ring members or an unsaturated ring having 6 ring atoms and 0 to 3 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members fused to an unsaturated ring having 6 or 7 ring atoms and 0 to 3 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members.

16. The compound of claim 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein R4 comprises  $-\text{CH}_2-\text{Q}-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{Z}$ ,

Q comprises N, O, S, CH<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> or OSO<sub>2</sub>,

n is an integer from 0 to about 7, and

Z comprises H, halogen, N<sub>3</sub>, NCS, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, OX<sub>3</sub>, OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl, O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>OH, O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, CHO, CF<sub>3</sub>, COOX<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub>H, SO<sub>2</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, CONX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino,

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members,

X<sub>3</sub> comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl-NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>,

n is an integer from 0 to about 6.

17. The compound of claim 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein R4 comprises  $-\text{CH}_2-\text{Q}-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{Z}$ ,

Q comprises N, O, S, CH<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> or OSO<sub>2</sub>,

n is an integer from 0 to about 7, and

Z comprises a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a tricyclic ring, a heterotricyclic ring, a polycyclic ring or a heteropolycyclic ring.



18. The compound of claim 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein R4 comprises  $-\text{CH}_2-\text{Q}-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{Z}$ ,

Q comprises N, O, S,  $\text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{SO}_2$  or  $\text{OSO}_2$ ,

n is an integer from 0 to about 7, and

Z comprises a carbocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, an aromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring atom by a lower-alkyl group; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the  $-(\text{CH}_2)_n-$  group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom.

19. The compound of claim 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein R4 comprises  $-\text{CH}_2-\text{Q}-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{Z}$ ,

Q comprises N, O, S,  $\text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{SO}_2$  or  $\text{OSO}_2$ ,

n is an integer from 0 to about 7, and

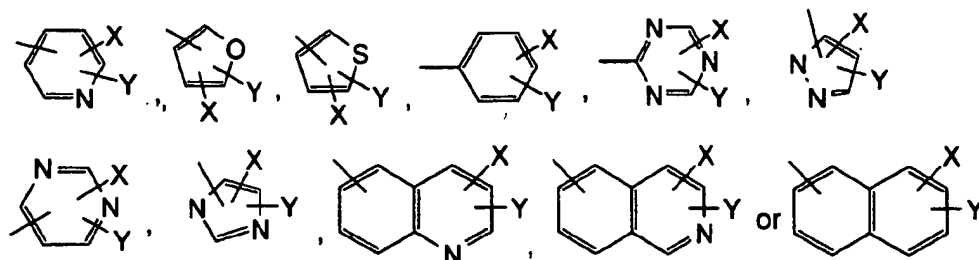
Z comprises 1-, 2- or 3-pyrrolidinyl, 1-, 2-, 3- or 4-piperidinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-morpholinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-thiomorpholinyl, 1-, 2- or 3-azetidiny, 1- or 2-piperazinyl, 2- or 3-tetrahydrofuranyl; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring atom by a lower-alkyl group; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the  $-(\text{CH}_2)_n-$  group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom.

20. The compound of claim 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein R4 comprises  $-\text{CH}_2-\text{Q}-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{Z}$ ,

Q comprises N, O, S,  $\text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{SO}_2$  or  $\text{OSO}_2$ ,

n is an integer from 0 to about 7, and

Z comprises



wherein X and Y each independently comprise H, halogen,  $\text{N}_3$ , NCS, CN,  $\text{NO}_2$ ,  $\text{NX}_1\text{X}_2$ ,  $\text{OX}_3$ , OAc, O-acyl, O-aryl, NH-acyl, NH-aryl, alcohol, CHO,  $\text{CF}_3$ , alcohol,  $\text{COOX}_3$ ,  $\text{SO}_3\text{H}$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{NX}_1\text{X}_2$ ,  $\text{CONX}_1\text{X}_2$ , alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, or methylene dioxy when Z comprises a structure having two adjacent carbon atoms.

21. The compound of claim 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein R4 comprises  $-\text{CH}_2-\text{Q}-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{Z}$ ,

Q comprises N, O, S,  $\text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{SO}_2$  or  $\text{OSO}_2$ ,

n is an integer from 0 to about 7, and

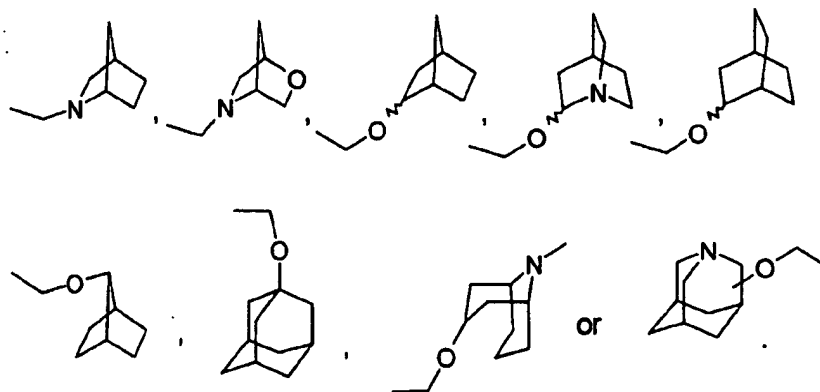
Z comprises an unsaturated ring having 5 ring atoms and 0 to 2 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members fused to an unsaturated ring having 5 ring atoms and 0 to 2 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members, an unsaturated ring having 5 ring atoms and 0 to 2 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members fused to an unsaturated ring having 6 or 7 ring atoms and 0 to 3 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members or an unsaturated ring having 6 ring atoms and 0 to 3 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members fused to an unsaturated ring having 6 or 7 ring atoms and 0 to 3 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members.

22. The compound of claim 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein R<sub>4</sub> comprises  $-\text{CH}_2-\text{Q}-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{Z}$ ,

Q comprises N, O, S, CH<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> or OSO<sub>2</sub>,

n is an integer from 0 to about 7, and

Z comprises



23. The compound of claim 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein R<sub>4</sub> comprises  $-\text{T}-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{Z}$ ,

n comprises an integer from 0 to about 7,

T comprises a carbocyclic ring having 3 to about 8 ring members, an unsaturated ring having 3 to about 8 carbon atoms as ring members, a heterocyclic ring having 3 to about 8 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having 5 to about 8 ring members, a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a tricyclic ring, a heterotricyclic ring, a polycyclic ring or a heteropolycyclic ring, and

Z comprises H, halogen, N<sub>3</sub>, NCS, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, OX<sub>3</sub>, OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl, O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>OH, O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, CHO, CF<sub>3</sub>, COOX<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub>H, SO<sub>2</sub>NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, CONX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino alkylsulfinyl, or alkylsulfonyl,

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members,

X<sub>3</sub> comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl-NX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>

n is an integer from 0 to about 6.

24. The compound of claim 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein R<sub>4</sub> comprises -T-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-Z,

n comprises an integer from 0 to about 7,

T comprises a carbocyclic ring having 3 to about 8 ring members, an unsaturated ring having 3 to about 8 carbon atoms as ring members, a heterocyclic ring having 3 to about 8 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having 5 to about 8 ring members, a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a tricyclic ring, a heterotricyclic ring, a polycyclic ring or a heteropolycyclic ring, and

Z comprises a carbocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, an aromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a polycyclic ring, a heteropolycyclic ring; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring atom by a lower-alkyl group; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>- group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom.

25. The compound of claim 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein R<sub>4</sub> comprises -T-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-Z,

n comprises an integer from 0 to about 7,

T comprises a carbocyclic ring having 3 to about 8 ring members, an unsaturated ring having 3 to about 8 carbon atoms as ring members, a heterocyclic ring having 3 to about 8 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having 5 to about 8 ring

members, a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a tricyclic ring, a heterotricyclic ring, a polycyclic ring or a heteropolycyclic ring, and

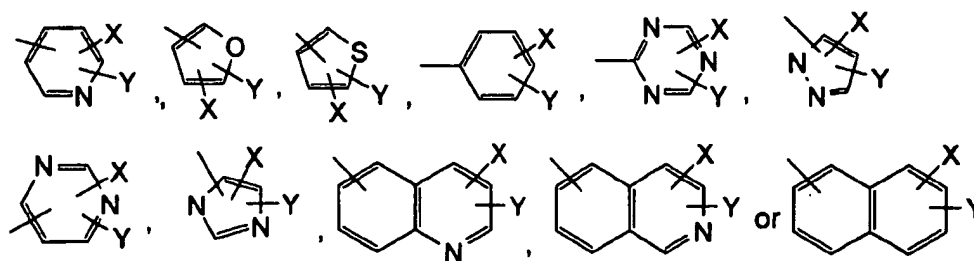
Z comprises 1-, 2- or 3-pyrrolidinyl, 1-, 2-, 3- or 4-piperidinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-morpholinyl, 2-, 3- or 4-thiomorpholinyl, 1-, 2- or 3-azetidiny, 1- or 2-piperazinyl, 2- or 3-tetrahydrofuranyl; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring atom by a lower-alkyl group; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted benzhydryl group; and wherein the connecting point between the  $-(CH_2)_n-$  group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom.

26. The compound of claim 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein R4 comprises  $-T-(CH_2)_n-Z$ ,

n comprises an integer from 0 to about 7,

T comprises a carbocyclic ring having 3 to about 8 ring members, an unsaturated ring having 3 to about 8 carbon atoms as ring members, a heterocyclic ring having 3 to about 8 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having 5 to about 8 ring members, a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a tricyclic ring, a heterotricyclic ring, a polycyclic ring or a heteropolycyclic ring, and

Z comprises



wherein X and Y each independently comprise H, halogen,  $N_3$ , NCS, CN,  $NO_2$ ,  $NX_1X_2$ ,  $OX_3$ , OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl, NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, alcohol, CHO,  $CF_3$ ,  $COOX_3$ ,  $SO_3H$ ,  $SO_2NX_1X_2$ ,  $CONX_1X_2$ , alkoxy, alkylmercapto,

alkylamino or di-alkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, or methylenedioxy when Z comprises a structure having two adjacent carbon atoms.

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members,

$X_3$  comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl- $NX_1X_2$ .

27. The compound of claim 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein  $R_4$  comprises  $-T-(CH_2)_n-Z$ ,

$n$  comprises an integer from 0 to about 7,

T comprises a carbocyclic ring having 3 to about 8 ring members, an unsaturated ring having 3 to about 8 carbon atoms as ring members, a heterocyclic ring having 3 to about 8 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having 5 to about 8 ring members, a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a tricyclic ring, a heterotricyclic ring, a polycyclic ring or a heteropolycyclic ring, and

Z comprises an unsaturated ring having 5 ring atoms and 0 to 2 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members fused to an unsaturated ring having 5 ring atoms and 0 to 2 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members, an unsaturated ring having 5 ring atoms and 0 to 2 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members fused to an unsaturated ring having 6 or 7 ring atoms and 0 to 3 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members or an unsaturated ring having 6 ring atoms and 0 to 3 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members fused to an unsaturated ring having 6 or 7 ring atoms and 0 to 3 independently selected heteroatoms as ring members.

28. The compound of claim 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein R4 comprises  $-\text{Ph}-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{Z}$ ,

n comprises an integer from 0 to about 7, and

Z comprises H, halogen,  $\text{N}_3$ , NCS, CN,  $\text{NO}_2$ ,  $\text{NX}_1\text{X}_2$ ,  $\text{OX}_3$ , OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl,  $\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{OH}$ ,  $\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{NX}_1\text{X}_2$ , NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, CHO,  $\text{CF}_3$ ,  $\text{COOX}_3$ ,  $\text{SO}_3\text{H}$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{NX}_1\text{X}_2$ ,  $\text{CONX}_1\text{X}_2$ , alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino,

$\text{X}_1$  and  $\text{X}_2$  each independently comprise H or alkyl, or

$\text{X}_1$  and  $\text{X}_2$  together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

$\text{X}_1$  and  $\text{X}_2$  together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members,

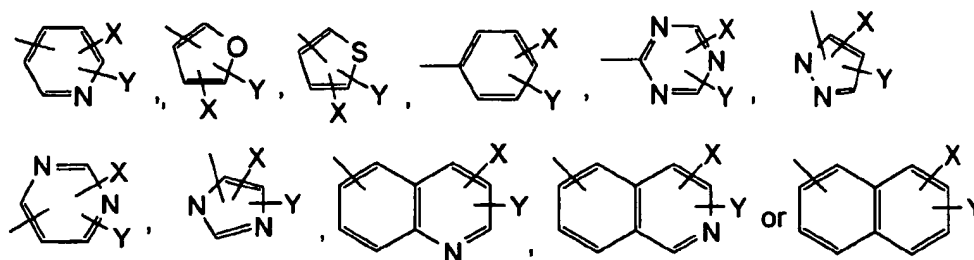
$\text{X}_3$  comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl- $\text{NX}_1\text{X}_2$ ,

n is an integer from 0 to about 6.

29. The compound of claim 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein R4 comprises  $-\text{Ph}-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{Z}$ ,

n comprises an integer from 0 to about 7, and

Z comprises



wherein X and Y each independently comprise H, halogen,  $\text{N}_3$ , NCS, CN,  $\text{NO}_2$ ,  $\text{NX}_1\text{X}_2$ ,  $\text{OX}_3$ , OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl, NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, CHO,  $\text{CF}_3$ , alcohol,  $\text{COOX}_3$ ,  $\text{SO}_3\text{H}$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{NX}_1\text{X}_2$ ,  $\text{CONX}_1\text{X}_2$ , alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino or di-alkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, lower-alkylsulfonyl, or methylene dioxy when Z comprises a structure having two adjacent carbon atoms,

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  each independently comprise H or alkyl, or



$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  together comprise part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members,

$X_3$  comprises H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl, or alkyl- $NX_1X_2$ .

30. The compound of claim 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein  $R_4$  comprises  $-\text{Ph}-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{Z}$ ,

$n$  comprises an integer from 0 to about 7, and

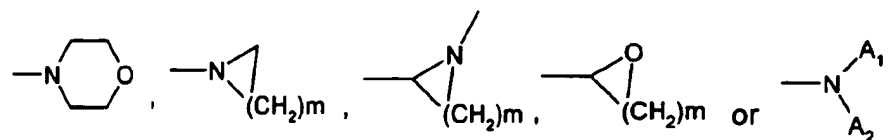
$Z$  comprises  or .

$E$  comprises a C1 to about C4, linear or branched alkyl group, a phenyl group, a substituted phenyl group, a benzyl group or a substituted benzyl group.

31. The compound of claim 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein  $R_4$  comprises  $-\text{Ph}-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{Z}$ ,

$n$  comprises an integer from 0 to about 7, and

$Z$  comprises



$m$  is an integer from 1 to about 5,  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  each independently comprise a C1 to about C4 alkyl group, a phenyl group or a substituted phenyl group.



32. A pharmaceutical composition for an individual or animal comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of any of claims 1 through 28 or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

33. A method of stimulating at least some cannabinoid receptors in an individual or animal comprising administering to the individual or animal a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of any of claims 1 through 28 or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

34. A method of selectively stimulating at least some CB1 cannabinoid receptors in an individual or animal comprising administering to the individual or animal a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of any of claims 1 through 28 or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

35. A method for the treatment of a disease in an animal or individual comprising administering to an individual or animal in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of any of claims 1 through 28 or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

Fig. 1

